Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *August* 1883.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4844.)

F.O.
424

PART LXXIV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

March to June 1883.

129

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Wyndham ..	182 Confidential	Mar. 27, 1883	Murder of Montenegrin at Scutari. Inquiry ordered into state of affairs in Scutari Vilayet	1
2	„ „ ..	183	27,	Eastern Roumelian Budget, and reduction of tribute to Porte. Despatch from Captain Jones	2
3	Sir H. Elliot ..	101 Confidential	27,	Journey of Prince Alexander to Athens through Macedonia, and Russian interference in Bulgaria	3
4	„ „ ..	102 Confidential	27,	Russia and the Bulgarian tribute. Conversation with Count Kálnoky	3
5	Mr. Kirby Green ..	36 Confidential	23,	Montenegrin frontier east of Lake Scutari. Proposal of Bedri Bey	4
6	„ „ ..	37	23,	Murder of Montenegrin by Albanians at Scutari. Further account of	5
7	Mr. Egerton ..	28 Confidential	29,	Questions at issue between Greece and Turkey. Language held to M. Tricoupi	6
8	Consul-General Blunt.	6	28,	State of affairs in Dibra, and unsettled condition of North Albania. Instances of ..	7
9	To Mr. Wyndham ..	112	Apr. 6,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Her Majesty's Government regret there should be no immediate prospect of discussing. To continue to press for	8
10	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	6,	Attacks by Montenegrins on Turkish subjects. They show necessity for settling frontier question	8
11	To Mr. Kirby Green .	11	7,	Murder of Montenegrin at Scutari. To recommend prudent action	8
12	Mr. Egerton ..	30 Confidential	3,	Questions at issue between Greece and the Porte, and share of Turkish debt to be borne by Greece	9
13	Sir H. Elliot ..	107	5,	Holy Places in Roumania. Views of Austro-Hungarian Government . ..	9
14	„ „ ..	109	5,	Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria. Count Kálnoky is ready to join in action at Sophia.	10
15	Sir A. Paget ..	108	6,	Ditto. Italian Representative at Sophia authorized to join his colleagues in representations to Bulgarian Government	10
16	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	10,	Bulgarian order. Acknowledging receipt of his note of 30th ultimo	11
17	Mr. Kirby Green ..	38 Confidential	Mar 25,	Montenegrin frontier question. Thinks Turkish Government are not in earnest in their endeavours to settle	11
18	„ „ ..	39	30,	Increased hostility between North Albanians and Montenegrins	12
19	„ „ ..	40	30,	Montenegrin frontier. Note from Montenegrin Government declining to negotiate further with Porte	13
20	„ „ ..	41	30,	Albano-Montenegrin frontier. Map of Podgoritza Plain marked by Bedri Bey	14
21	„ „ ..	43	Apr. 1,	Attack by Montenegrins on village of Kosani. Complicity of Montenegrin Government ..	14
22	„ „ ..	44	1,	Arrival of Mustafa Assym Pasha at Scutari with two of Sultan's Aides-de-camp ..	15
23	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	Mar. 31,	Complaints of Montenegrin raids on Turkish territory	15
24	Mr. Lascelles ..	21	31,	No truth in report of extraordinary military preparations in Bulgaria	16
25	Mr. Wyndham ..	215 Confidential	Apr. 10,	Treatment of Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria. Action taken by Her Majesty's Government communicated to Porte. . ..	17
26	Sir E. Thornton ..	86	10,	Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission. M de Giers thinks Porte ask too much	17
27	Mr. Kirby Green ..	47	3,	Failure of Montenegrin raid on Albanian village. Imprisonment of officers	18
28	„ „ ..	49 Confidential	9,	Interference of Montenegrin Government with Roman Catholic worship at Cettinjé ..	18
29	To Mr. Wyndham ..	20 Telegraphic	18,	Treatment of Prince Alexander at Constantinople. May join his Austrian colleague in representations to Porte respecting ..	19

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
30	To. Mr. Wyndham ..	122	Apr. 18, 1883	Extends above	19
31	To Sir H. Elliot ..	103	19,	Holy Places in Roumania. Views of Her Majesty's Government. Note to Roumanian Minister	19
32	To Mr. Wyndham ..	138	20,	State of affairs in Dibra and Upper Albania. To communicate substance of Mr. Blunt's Reports to Porte	20
33	To Mr. Egerton ..	21	20.	To impress upon Greek Government necessity of moderation in its policy towards Porte	20
34	To Mr. Kirby Green..	17	20,	Montenegrin frontier. Concurs in views expressed in No. 19	20
35	„ „ ..	18	21,	Montenegrin raid upon Kosani. Instructions as to language to be held respecting .	21
36	Mr. Wyndham ..	227	16,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Austrian Ambassador will call a meeting to exchange views ..	21
37	Sir H. Elliot ..	124	18,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Views of Count Kálnoky identical with those of Her Majesty's Government	21
38	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	23.	Montenegrin raids on Turkish territory. Serious endeavour should be made to settle question of frontier	22
39	To Count Nigra ..	..	24,	Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria. Action taken by Her Majesty's Government ..	22
40	„ „ ..	..	24,	Montenegrin frontier. Time has not yet arrived for intervention	22
41	Mr. Kirby Green ..	52	17.	Result of Mustafa Assym Pasha's summons to Scutari of Chiefs of the Great Mountain clans	23
42	„ „ ..	53	17,	Relations between Montenegro and North Albania. Action of Mustafa Assym ..	23
43	„ „ ..	54	17,	Expected visit of Prince of Bulgaria to Montenegro	23
44	„ „ ..	55 Confidential	17	Claim of Turkish Envoy to present Prince of Bulgaria on arrival at Cettinjé .. .	24
45	M. de Giers to Baron Mohrenheim	..	8,	Montenegrin frontier. As to resumption of demarcation by International Commission ..	24
46	To Sir E. Thornton .	126	May 1,	Montenegrin frontier. Transmits copy of above. Reply given to Baron Mohrenheim ..	25
47	Mr. Kirby Green ..	56	Apr. 22,	Meeting between Prince Nicholas and Mustafa Assym Pasha	25
48	„ „ ..	57	24,	Language held to Mustafa Assym with regard to attitude of Albanian clansmen	25
49	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic Confidential	May 3,	Alleged offensive alliance between Greece, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro against Turkey	26
50	To Mr. Wyndham ..	162	4,	Transmits copy of above. Answer given to Musurus Pasha	26
51	Mr. Wyndham ..	267	1,	Russian Memorial chapel in Shipka Pass. Porte has agreed to	26
52	„ „ ..	268	1,	Rhodope villages. Suggests representation to Porte by Signatory Powers	27
53	Mr. Kirby Green ..	58	Apr. 25,	Removal of Abdi Pasha from the government of North Albania	28
54	„ „ ..	59 Confidential	27,	Mission of M. Vukotic to Scutari probably connected with Albano-Montenegrin frontier negotiations	28
55	„ „ ..	60	27,	Withdrawal of Montenegrins from North Albania. Language of M. Vukotic ..	28
56	„ „ ..	61	28,	Great meeting of North Albanian clansmen in district of Castrati	29
57	Mr. Egerton ..	41 Confidential	May 6,	Arrival of Prince of Bulgaria in Athens. His interview with M. Tricoupi	29
58	Mr. Wyndham ..	289	7,	State of affairs in Upper Albania. Substance of Mr. Blunt's Report laid before the Porte	30
59	To Mr. Wyndham ..	186	18,	Rhodope villages. Approves action reported in No. 52. To bring matter before his colleagues	30
60	Mr. Kirby Green ..	62	5,	Abdi Pasha directed to remain for the present at Scutari. Ill-effect of this on mission of Mustafa Assym	30
61	Nil	..	..	Nil	
62	Mr. Kirby Green ..	64	5,	No raids made by Montenegrins on Albanian territory except recent attack on Castrati tribe	33
63	„ „ ..	66 Most Conf.	7,	Negotiations for an understanding between Turkey and Montenegro in the event of complications arising with Austria	33

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
64	Mr. Kirby Green ..	67 Confidential	May 8, 1883	Montenegrin frontier. Purport of discussion respecting a meeting at Rieka	34
65	„ „ ..	75	14,	Arrival at Scutari of Hafiz Pasha to take command of troops there	34
66	Mr. Ford	53 Confidential	17,	Prince of Bulgaria's visit to Greece. Account of and reasons for	35
67	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Confidential	17,	Alleged offensive alliance between Greece, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro	36
68	Sir H. Elliot ..	157 Confidential	22,	Visit of Prince of Montenegro to Vienna. His relations with Austria	37
69	Mr. Kirby Green ..	77	22,	Serious reports as to attitude of Roman Catholic mountaineers. Turkish authorites forced to make concessions	38
70	„ „ .	78	22,	Departure of Abdi Pasha from Scutari ..	39
71	Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	24,	Danubian fortresses. Complains of non-execution of Article XI of Berlin Treaty ..	39
72	Mr. Kirby Green ..	12 Telegraphic	June 2,	Communications with Scutari cut off by Albanians. Hafiz Pasha started to relieve garrisons	39
73	„ „ ..	13 Telegraphic	3,	Reports fighting commenced between Turks and mountaineers near Castrati	39
74	„ „ .	14 Telegraphic	4,	Fighting still going on. Troops apparently checked (see above)	40
75	„ „ ..	79	May 24,	Appointment of Don Primo, Roman Catholic Mirdite, as parish priest of Antivari ..	40
76	„ „ .	80	28,	Reports matters having reached a crisis between Albanian clansmen and Turkish authorities .	40
77	„ „ ..	81	28,	Crisis in North Albania. Conversation with Mustafa Assym Pasha	41
78	Consul-General Blunt	8	28,	Brigandage at Serres. Neighbourhood of Salonica quiet	42
79	Mr. Kirby Green ..	15 Telegraphic	June 8,	Recent fighting at Castrati and Tousi so serious that Turkish troops are checked	43
80	Mr. Lascelles ..	42	May 28,	Bulgarian affairs. Questions discussed at meeting of Agents and Consuls-General ..	43
81	Mr. Wyndham ..	357 Confidential	June 4,	As to reported entry of Turkey into Triple Alliance	44
82	„ „ ..	359 Confidential	5,	Alleged offensive alliance against Turkey between Greece, Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro	44
83	Sir H. Elliot ..	170	8,	Fighting in Albania. Count Kálnoky appears to attach little importance to	44
84	To Viscount Lyons ..	583 A	12,	Religious intolerance of Bulgarian authorities. Conversation with French Ambassador ..	45
85	To Mr. Wyndham ..	219	12,	Alleged alliance between Greece, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro (see No. 67). Her Majesty's Government have not received any such intelligence	45
86	Mr. Kirby Green ..	82	May 30,	Crisis in Albania. Turkish authorities busily engaged preparing troops	45
87	„ „ ..	84	31,	Crisis in Albania. Active military measures to be taken at once	45
88	„ „ ..	85	June 2,	Departure of troops from Scutari in direction of Podgoritza Plain	46
89	„ „ ..	86	5,	Commencement of hostilities between Turks and Albanians. Account of	46
90	„ „ ..	16 Telegraphic	14,	Appeal of Albanian Chiefs to Powers for support	47
91	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	15,	Demolition of Bulgarian fortresses. Her Majesty's Government ready to join in a representation at Sophia respecting	48
92	Mr. Kirby Green ..	17 Telegraphic	15,	Mirdites preparing to join movement of mountaineers	48
93	Mr. Wyndham ..	365	12,	Recent elections in Eastern Roumelia. Despatch from Consul-General Jones	48
94	To Mr. Kirby Green..	Telegraphic	18,	Fighting in Albania. Can he suggest means of bringing about an understanding? ..	49
95	Mr. Kirby Green ..	18 Telegraphic	18,	Ditto. Prince Nicholas states that resistance of clansmen has been overcome	49
96	„ „ ..	19 Telegraphic	19,	Ditto. Cannot ascertain present disposition of mountaineers. (Reply to No. 94) ..	49
97	To Viscount Lyons ..	616	20,	Mussulman property in Bulgaria. French Government will maintain reserved attitude ..	50
98	Mr. Kirby Green ..	88	8,	Fighting in Albania. Turkish troops unable to advance	50

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
99	Mr. Kirby Green ..	89	June 8, 1883	Reasons for which there was no need for Turks to have attacked Albanians ..	51
100	„ „ ..	91 Most Conf.	11,	Visit of an agent of Albanian mountaineers, who came to solicit assistance from Her Majesty's Government. Language held to him	51
101	„ „ ..	92	12,	Fighting in Albania. Movements of Turkish troops	52
102	Sir H. Elliot ..	172 A	12,	Ditto. Opinion of Count Kálnoky. Language held respecting by Turkish Ambassador .	53
103	„ „ ..	173	13,	Rhodope villages. Count Kálnoky thinks question should be left to Representatives at Constantinople	53
104	„ „ ..	178	18,	No late intelligence of affairs in Albania received by Austrian Government ..	53
105	Mr. Wyndham ..	379 Confidential	16,	Bulgarian tribute, &c. Baron Calice promises to call a meeting of Representatives of Powers	54
106	„ „ ..	385	16,	Crisis in North Albania. Has maintained a reserved attitude at the Porte respecting ..	54
107	Mr. Kirby Green ..	20 Telegraphic	20,	Roman Catholic Bishop of Scutari has offered his services to bring about a cessation of hostilities. Albanians would submit to a decision of Powers	55
108	„ „ ..	21 Telegraphic	22,	Wish of Prince Nicholas to visit England ..	55
109	„ „ ..	22 Telegraphic	22,	Report that Albanians would rather come to an understanding with Montenegro than submit to Turks. Action of Austrian Consul-General	55
110	To Mr. Kirby Green..	Telegraphic	23,	Tell Prince Nicholas moment is not favourable for his visit to England	55
111	Mr. Kirby Green ..	23 Telegraphic	23,	Prince Nicholas cannot carry out his proposed visit to England	56
112	„ „ ..	24 Telegraphic	25,	Albanian insurgents have decided to return to their homes	56
113	„ „ ..	93	15,	Appeal of Albanian Chiefs to Representatives of Powers at Scutari. Sends copy of ..	56
114	„ „ ..	94	15,	Intention of Mirdites to make a demonstration in favour of Albanians	57
115	„ „ ..	95	16,	Appeal of Chiefs in No. 113 is perfectly genuine. They are determined to continue resistance	58
116	„ „ .	96	17,	Mutilation of two Turkish soldiers by Albanians.	58
117	„ „ ..	97	17,	Further fighting in Albania. Contradictory accounts of	58
118	„ „ ..	98	18,	Mustafa Assym Pasha has telegraphed to Porte that insurgents have made submission ..	59
119	„ „ ..	99	19,	No truth in above assertion of Mustafa Assym Pasha	59
120	„ „ ..	100	19,	Barbarities committed by Albanian mountaineers	59
121	„ „ ..	25 Telegraphic	27,	Letter received from Albanian Chiefs offering to submit to decision of Powers	60
122	Mr. Wyndham ..	72 Telegraphic	29,	Bulgarian tribute and debts of small States. Question brought forward to-day at meeting of Representatives	60

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. July 1883.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LXXIV.

No. 1.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 2.)

E

(No. 182. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 22nd instant I received a telegram from Mr. Kirby Green, informing me that on the afternoon of the 21st instant a brother of Verbitza, the Montenegrin ex-Minister of the Interior, was shot dead by six Albanians in the bazaar at Scutari, and adding that there appeared to be no other motive for this act than to embroil matters with Montenegro.

I at once brought the news I had received of this murder to the knowledge of Aarifi Pasha, who had no intelligence on the subject, and his Highness immediately telegraphed to the Governor-General of Scutari for information, expressing to Sir Alfred Sandison, who was the bearer of my message, regret at the occurrence, as being calculated to aggravate the situation along the Montenegrin frontier, where fighting, he said, though on a very small scale, had taken place between the Montenegrins and Albanians.

I have since received two more telegrams from Mr. Green, in which he states that the crime announced in his first telegram was perpetrated in order to avenge the death of two mountaineers who were shot by Montenegrins, and that all Montenegrins in the Province of Scutari have returned home, in obedience to peremptory orders from Cettinjé, and in consequence also of directions to them from the Vali to leave the town.

Mr. Green expresses the opinion in one of his telegrams that the fact of both sides ignoring the existence of Turkish authority can only end in serious complications, and that the Porte ought to comprehend the danger of maintaining incapable officials in North Albania.

Your Lordship is aware that I have not ceased urging the Porte to remove Abdi Pasha, and I learnt yesterday, confidentially, from the Porte that it is chiefly owing to my representations and complaints as to his Excellency's incapacity that the Governor-General of Janina, Achmet Rassim Pasha, has been ordered to proceed to the Scutari Vilayet, in order to institute an inquiry into the unsatisfactory state of affairs prevailing there.

Mr. Green also reports to me that two of the Sultan's Aides-de-camp were expected at Scutari on the 25th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—I have, since writing the above, received a further telegram from Mr. Green, reporting that the Turkish authorities have been informed that the Montenegrins landed yesterday in force at Castoven, and that fighting is going on.

H. W.

No. 2.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 183.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 136 of the 20th February, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Captain Jones, inclosing a correspondence which has taken place between the Sublime Porte and the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, on the subject of the projected Budget for 1883-84 and the reduction of the tribute to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Philippopoli, March* 20, 1883.

I BEG leave to forward herewith copies of correspondence which has passed between the Porte and the Governor-General on the subject of the Provincial Budget projected for the year 1883-84, and more especially respecting a Project of Law—passed by the Provincial Assembly during its last Session—to reduce the annual sum fixed as tribute to the Porte.

In his first letter (9th ultimo) the Grand Vizier reminds the Governor-General that any economies effected in the expenditure of the province must be (Article 102, Organic Statute) without prejudice to Imperial claims; that the Roumelian Tribute being regarded as an important part of the Imperial revenues, any action on the part of the province to reduce its amount can have no legal force whatever, on which account the Porte rejects the said Project of Law, and refuses likewise to sanction the Budget as proposed.

In his second letter (14th ultimo) his Highness further reminds Aleko Pasha that, as the Sultan's Vicegerent in the province, his duty requires him to maintain the Sovereign's prerogatives; that he should have at once dissolved the Assembly as soon as it occupied itself with the reduction of the tribute, or at least have forthwith exchanged views with the Porte on this question; whereas, apparently, Aleko made himself simply the mouthpiece of the party which favoured the said measure, which he first presented to the Porte as an accomplished fact. He is recommended to abstain for the future from all acts or proceedings which may, in any degree, compromise the rights of the Imperial Government in the province, and to confine himself strictly to its administration within the limits of his duty, as laid down by the Organic Statute.

Aleko Pasha (23rd ultimo) telegraphs to explain (No. 3) that, if the Porte will sanction the Budget, as projected for 1883-84, the difference, £T. 60,000, as well as the full amount of tribute, £T. 240,000, will be passed to the Porte's credit for the year following. The alternative (by Article 103, Organic Statute), to continue the application of the present Budget, can only be attended with disastrous results for the future of the province. In his letter of the 26th ultimo (No. 4), he replies more fully to the Grand Vizier's objections, states the difficulties which prevented his dissolving the Assembly for merely exercising its constitutional rights, and, furthermore, that the 100th Article of the Organic Statute obliges him to allow any law to be proposed in the Assembly—although he may refuse to originate it—which bears the signatures of six members, and that, in any case, it rests with the Sultan to accept or reject the same, as he may see fit.

In No. 5 (4th instant) he cites in detail those provisions of the Organic Statute which appear to justify the late action of the Provincial Assembly in the matter of reducing the tribute, and further gives a review of the situation to prove that such a step is necessary to save the province from financial ruin. An Address, presented to him by the Permanent Committee—a copy of which (No. 6) accompanies his letter—likewise maintains the legality of the Assembly's measures in this respect, and expresses the extreme regret with which it learns the Porte's decision to repudiate the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 3.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 101. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 27, 1883.

WHILE mentioning to-day to Count Kálnoky that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia to join his Austrian and German colleagues in pressing Prince Alexander not to proceed to Greece through Macedonia, I observed that, according to Mr. Lascelles' despatches of the 19th instant, that plan appeared to have been given up, and that the Prince meant to go by way of Trieste.

His Excellency said that he hoped this was so, but he did not feel confident of it, as the plan, although disapproved by M. de Giers, originated with the Prince's Russian Ministers, who were pursuing a course that might prove as dangerous to the Prince as to the public tranquillity. The appointment by General Sobelow of a Russian as Minister of Public Works, in direct defiance of the vote of the Assembly, was an offence to the Bulgarian people, who knew that its object was to insure the construction of railroads with a view to Russian rather than to their own interests, and their resentment might render the Prince's position untenable.

Count Kálnoky said that he had just been speaking very seriously on this subject to the Russian Ambassador, who had justified the course followed by General Sobelow with reference to the Metropolitan, which had led to the late Ministerial crisis. He had, however, reminded Prince Lobanow that not many months ago the Russian Government had maintained, with respect to the suspension of the Metropolitan of Belgrade, a doctrine exactly contrary to that which they are now holding at Sophia, but, whatever might be the merits of the two cases, he asked what business it was of any foreign Government.

He had himself scrupulously abstained from meddling in Servia in any purely domestic matter, and it would, he thought, be better if Russia were to interfere less in the internal administration of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 4.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 2.)

E

(No. 102. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 27, 1883.

I ASKED Count Kálnoky to-day whether he knew anything of difficulties likely to be raised by the Russian Government against steps being taken for the settling the question of the Bulgarian tribute.

He said that Prince Lobanow had just been speaking to him on the subject, rathe deprecating its being hurriedly dealt with, and he had replied that he had no wish to see it hurried; but as considerable difficulty would be found in fixing the amount, he thought that it ought before long to be taken in hand by the Representatives at Constantinople.

They would have to be guided by the words of the Treaty of Berlin, which in this, as in many other instances, were not as clear as might be desired, and it would, moreover, be no easy matter to ascertain the real revenue of the Principality, as the figures that would be furnished of it were not likely to be very trustworthy.

The question might also arise whether, in estimating the amount of tribute that the Principality was capable of paying, account was to be taken of the cost of maintaining an army formed contrary to provisions of the Treaty.

Prince Lobanow protested against this remark, but on the Article of the Treaty authorizing the establishment of a "national militia" being pointed out to him, he merely expressed an earnest hope that Count Kálnoky would not raise the question.

Count Kálnoky replied that he would not raise it himself, but it was not impossible that others might.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 5.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)

Scutari, March 23, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that yesterday Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey, the Turkish member of the Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro, called on me with the ostensible object of asking me whether I could give him any news of the proximate arrival of his English colleague, Major Sale, but in reality to submit to me a proposal for the settlement of the pending frontier questions, which he trusted I would not refuse to lay before your Lordship for favourable consideration, in order that I might be instructed to press it upon Prince Nicholas' attention.

Before allowing Bedri Bey to proceed any further, I told him that I must remind him that I had throughout been of opinion that there ought not to be any points of paramount importance to arrange with regard to the Turco-Montenegrin boundaries, and that, therefore, it would be a mistake to encourage attempts, either from the side of Montenegro or of Turkey, to reopen a matter which had been settled to all intents and purposes, as far as the Powers were concerned, by the Dulcigno arrangement. The only work that remained to be done was that of actual demarcation, and which required that the Ottoman and Montenegrin Governments should come to a previous understanding roughly as to the line of their frontiers. Not until then did I think that the entire Boundary Commission ought to reassemble.

Bedri Bey, whilst asserting that the Porte believed it could prove, if necessary, its contention that the cession of Dulcigno had not carried with it the line of frontier to the east of Lake Scutari proposed by the Powers, said that, nevertheless, an appeal had been made for the good offices of the Great Powers in order to solve present difficulties, and that to this end it was desirable above all to obtain the valuable support of Her Majesty's Government.

The Turkish Commissioner then described to me a frontier-line commencing from the eastern shore of Lake Scutari and ending at Mokra Planina, beyond Gussinjé, which, he said, was the only one which the Ottoman Government would accept on fair and practical grounds as definitive.

This line on the Podgoritza Plain was the same as the one set forth in the Memorandum inclosed in Mr. Wyndham's despatch to your Lordship No. 102 of the 12th ultimo; and on my observing that it appeared to deprive Montenegro of at least 20 square kilom., instead of the 8 kilom. mentioned in the Memorandum, Bedri Bey explained that the Porte had only given the area of the arable ground which the Principality would have to abandon, as no importance could attach to arid tracts which formed the remainder of the land in question.

The tracing of the remainder of the frontier to Mokra Planina was so conceived as to require a further retrocession of territory from Montenegro of about 30 square kilom., and it was based on the assumption that the Dulcigno district had been given in exchange for that of Gussinjé as it had existed prior to the war.

Bedri Bey pronounced this as being the sole line which the Porte could, not only in fairness but also practically, accept, for, if it was rejected, conflicts would inevitably be provoked by the Albanians, which would lead to a rupture between the Imperial and Montenegrin Governments.

But it was at this point, the Turkish Commissioner said, that the advantage of the proposal which he wished to submit became apparent.

There was no doubt that through the momentary existence of the Protocol of the 10th January last, and the manner in which the Dulcigno arrangement had been proposed to Prince Nicholas, the Montenegrins would have a certain right to oppose the required retrocessions, and, therefore, the Turkish Government, in its great anxiety to terminate its differences with the Principality, would not refuse to acknowledge that compensation in the following manner should be accorded Montenegro:—

1st. The district of the Kučka Kraïna, which belongs to Turkey in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, would be finally ceded;

2nd. A complete cession to Montenegro of the Porte's rights under the third paragraph of Article 30 of the Treaty of Berlin as regards State property and religious foundations, rights which represent a money value of from 12,000 to 15,000 Turkish liras;

3rd. The amount of the portion of the Ottoman Public Debt which Montenegro

is to bear under Article XXXIII of the Treaty of Berlin to be reduced, say in the proportion of from 5,000*l.* to 3,000*l.* per annum.

After placing the above before me, Bedri Bey asked what answer I would authorize him to communicate to Constantinople as having been made by me to him.

I said that I was authorized to make no answer at all to him, but that I felt I could safely say that, in my opinion, it was no use proposing arrangements about the Albano-Montenegrin frontier as long as the Sultan's Government did not take steps to assert its will and authority in Albania. I furthermore was sure if the wish for the reassemblage of the Boundary Commission was acceded to without an engagement having been first taken by the Porte to abide by the decisions of the majority of the Commission, that no good result would be arrived at, and that, besides, it would be a means of publishing to the world, if not the impracticable temper of the Ottoman authorities, at all events their utter weakness in these regions.

Lest, however, Bedri Bey should imagine that I was personally hostile to any arrangement being accomplished, I explained to him that his proposals might be very well made direct to the Montenegrin Government through the Turkish Representative at Cettinjé, and, on the Commissioner rejecting at once this suggestion, I added that no better pledge of success in Montenegro could be held than if the Porte could gain the advocacy for its scheme of the Austro-Hungarian or Russian Government.

In the foregoing statements and proposals of Bedri Bey, your Lordship will observe that the Turkish Commissioner has contrived to touch upon most of the pretensions and questions raised by the Porte whilst the Dulcigno arrangement was being discussed and carried out with the manifest object of reopening them.

It would really be lamentable if this evident trap was permitted to take effect.

For the moment there is no Turco-Montenegrin question beyond a Cabinet one between the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments.

The Montenegrins are in possession, with some few trifling exceptions, of all the territories awarded to them, and are not likely, for the sole object of acquiring those insignificant exceptions, to enter upon a struggle with the wild Albanian tribes on the frontier. These tribes, too, will not move without their lands are invaded, or unless they are urged to do so by the Turkish Government.

The Dulcigno arrangement may be said to be a *fait accompli* in all but the formality of a duly signed map, and act on the part of the Boundary Commission. This formality may be well allowed to stand over as long as the parties most interested, for trivial local reasons, forget vital interests, and refuse to come to an understanding based on the principle of *uti possidetis*, and which is the only practical course open to them.

I fear much that other motives than those alleged are preventing the Government at Constantinople from arranging its differences, and that it has hardly yet realized that its piecemeal policy of concessions keeps alive in the minds of the native populations the disastrous results of the defeats sustained during the last war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 6.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Scutari, March 23, 1883.

THE day before yesterday I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship by telegraph the assassination in the Bazaar of Scutari, on market day, of M. Stefan Verbitza, the brother of Voïvoda Macho Verbitza, late Minister of the Interior of Montenegro.

As your Lordship is aware, I have long foreseen the possibility of such an outrage occurring here, owing to the attitude of inaction and apathy assumed by the Turkish authorities.

The crime in question was perpetrated within a few paces of a Turkish guard-house by six mountaineers of the Roman Catholic tribe of Castrati. No attempt was made by the officer in command to order the arrest of the murderers, who called out to the crowd to clear the way, as they had merely vindicated their honour.

Later on a few policemen made a pretence of pursuing the mountaineers, but the Vali, Abdi Pasha, from the moment the matter was reported to him, gave it the colour

of a common tribal blood feud, and even refused to allow the Public Prosecutor, in accordance with the law, to occupy himself with the business.

M. Stefan Verbitza had been warned about eight days before his unfortunate demise, that the Castrati tribe had determined to murder some prominent Montenegrin, and that he would do well to leave Scutari. He, however, feeling that he had absolutely no quarrel with any one, did not attach sufficient importance to the warning, especially as the Chief of the Police at the Bazaar promised to keep watch over his safety.

Abdi Pasha, notwithstanding the above well known fact, maintained that the Castratis had been provoked into the act by the death of two of their tribesmen that same morning at the hands of the Montenegrins, who had made a descent in the Castrati district from the lake with a large force conveyed in five barges. The Pasha's statement has, however, not been confirmed, although it appears a murder was committed by the Montenegrins on a native from a locality annexed to Montenegro, but who had no connection with the Castratis.

The tribe in question is not a frontier tribe, as those of Hotti and Gruda intervene between it and Montenegro; but the Montenegrins have been in the habit of fishing in an inlet of the lake bordering the Castrati district.

About six months ago the Castratis marked their objection to the exercise of these fishery rights by murdering two Montenegrins, since when they, in expectation of some retaliatory acts, have assumed an openly hostile attitude towards everything connected with the Principality, and have several times seized and confiscated boats laden with merchandize bound from Scutari to Montenegro.

It now remains to be seen in what manner the Montenegrin Government will view the murder of an unoffending and peaceable man who was, so to speak, lulled into a sense of safety by the belief that he was under the direct protection of the Turkish authorities.

In any case it ought not to be tolerated that those authorities should justify, as they are now attempting to do, the murder, and the Porte would do well to recall to mind that the troubles which culminated in the Russian war, and which have not yet terminated, first arose from a very similar occurrence to the present at Podgoritza.

Among the immediate consequences of M. Verbitza's assassination are, the impossibility of further commercial intercourse between the Montenegrins and Albanians on Albanian territory, and the hindrance to the free navigation by Montenegrin boats of the River Boyana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 7.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 29, 1883.

THOUGH ,as I have reported to your Lordship, M. Tricoupi declares that his chief aim at present is to cultivate the best possible relations with the Porte, there are some irritating questions at issue between the two Governments.

One of the chief of these is the tax imposed on Greek industrials and workmen in Turkey—a tax which by Treaty of 1855 is confined to members of labour unions or guilds.

By the imposition of this tax, Greek subjects, so M. Tricoupi informs me, are in a less favoured position than many other foreigners in Turkey.

There are other questions also: that of the refusal of the Porte to consider Thessalians non-resident in Thessaly at the time of its cession as Greek subjects; that of the post offices, which has long been pending.

The sole reason of my alluding to this subject to your Lordship is that I learn with regret that he has informed the Greek Representatives at the Great Courts that when the Ottoman Government shall propose that the Greek Government should pay its share under the Treaty of Berlin of the Ottoman debt, he will refuse to do so till satisfaction be granted to Greece in the matters in dispute.

M. Tricoupi is a man whose first attitude is often aggressive, whose bark is loud, but who is not without prudence, so that I do not attach very great importance to these instructions which he has sent for the direction of Greek Ministers abroad.

Though I have not yet alluded to the proposed Conference of Representatives at Constantinople on the subject of the Greek, Bulgarian, Montenegrin, &c., share of the Ottoman debt, as M. Tricoupi has not made any allusion to the subject, I will, when I have the opportunity, do my best to prevent M. Tricoupi doing anything which may exhibit Greece in a foolish light, and I have also privately told the French Minister of the tone held by M. Tricoupi, so that he may also, when the occasion offer, moderate M. Tricoupi's aggressive tendency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 8.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March* 28, 1883.

HAVING heard from various sources that disturbances had occurred not very long ago in Dibra, I have endeavoured to procure reliable information on the subject.

The accompanying extracts from two letters may be deemed of interest as throwing some light upon the state of affairs prevailing in that district.

I also regret having to report to your Lordship that it appears from information that has come to my knowledge that the condition of affairs in Ipek and other districts in Upper Albania which are included in the Vilayet of Cossova has again become very unsettled.

I am assured that within the last six months there have been many cases of deliberate murder and assassination, and that generally a strong feeling of insubordination prevails among the Mahommedan Albanians against the Ottoman authorities.

For instance, the Albanians of Ipek have laid an embargo on a quantity of wheat and Indian corn which was bought and stored in that town by a Salonica Bey, and prohibit its sale to the Montenegrin villagers, who at this season are in great need of bread-stuffs.

The Bey appealed for assistance to the military authorities, who declined to interfere, and strongly advised the Bey to leave the district.

Some few months ago a certain Imam Moussa assassinated in open day a Turkish functionary, the President of the Civil and Criminal Court at Ipek, and subsequently tried to murder his victim's wife, and yet no attempt has been made by the local authorities to apprehend the murderer, who is allowed to be at large in the town.

Six weeks ago two well-to-do Christians of Ipek were wantonly murdered, one of them by an Albanian zaptieh. The authors of this outrage are still at large, although the Alaï Bey, or Chief of the Police of the Vilayet of Cossova, was at Ipek during this occurrence, acting as Mutessarif in the room of Ali Pasha of Gussinjé.

But the following incident demonstrates still more forcibly the refractory and rebellious spirit of the people, and the irresolute and feeble administration of the Vali of Cossova.

Dranista, and some twenty other Mahommedan villages which are included in the district of Vucitrin in the Vilayet of Cossova, refuse to pay the Government taxes or to acknowledge the authority of the Sub-Governor until they are placed under the Mutessarif of Ipek, the Albanian Chief Ali Pasha of Gussinjé.

Although these villages are all within easy distance of Vucitrin and Mitrovitza, their inhabitants prefer to be administratively connected with the more distant district of Ipek, and with the party there interested in the maintenance of a chronic state of disorder.

The Vali of Cossova has taken no action in this matter further than to commission some members of his Medjliss to proceed to the spot and exhort the villagers to recognize and respect his authority, but uselessly, for his delegates returned from their mission and assured his Excellency that the people had assumed a very menacing attitude, and appeared determined to have their own way, *vi et armis*, if necessary.

My informant states that if even the Pasha of Cossova were a resolute man, the military force at his disposal is insufficient for the purpose of acting with decision and success against these Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

E
(No. 112.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 6, 1883.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 166, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, informing me of the language held by your colleagues with regard to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that measures should be taken for the definitive settlement of the questions relating to the amount of tribute due to Turkey by Bulgaria, and the share of the Ottoman Debt to be borne by the Principality, by Servia, Montenegro, and Greece; and stating that it does not seem probable, taking into consideration the language held by the French Ambassador, and the views reported to be held by M. de Nelidoff on the questions at issue, that the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople will be able to meet to discuss the matter at present.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with regret that there does not appear to be any immediate prospect of the settlement of these questions which have been so long outstanding, and I have to instruct you to take any favourable opportunity that may present itself of pressing the matter on the attention of your colleagues, pointing out to them that its discussion does not, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, require the assembly of a formal Conference, but that the question should be thoroughly examined by the Representatives of the Great Powers at their usual meetings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, April 6, 1883.*

I HAD the honour to receive from your Excellency on the 29th ultimo a copy of a telegraphic despatch from the Porte relative to attacks recently made by Montenegrins upon Turkish subjects.

In expressing my regret at these circumstances, I beg leave to point out to your Excellency that the constant recurrence of such broils proves how desirable it is, in the interest of Turkey, that the Porte should come to an understanding on the frontier question with the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 11.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 7, 1883.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 9 of the 21st instant, I inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, reporting a conversation between his Excellency and the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the murder of the brother of Verbitza in the Scutari bazaar.*

The Italian Consul in that town has informed his Government that the Prince of Montenegro has, in consequence of the murder, called upon all Montenegrin subjects to leave Albania, and return within the frontiers of the Principality; and instructions have been sent to the Italian Consul to represent to the Montenegrin Government that the circumstances scarcely justify so serious a measure.

I have to instruct you to join with the Italian Consul, or with any of your colleagues, in recommending the Government to act prudently in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* See Part LXXIII, No. 145.

No. 12.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

E
(No. 30. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, April 3, 1883.*

WITH reference to my No. 28, Confidential, I alluded to-day, in talking to M. Tricoupi, to the instructions he told me he had sent to the Greek Legation, to guide their language in reference to questions pending between the Porte and Greece, and I said how important I thought it that no handle should be given by any language of the Greek Government abroad to any imputations against Greece of want of faith. Not that I believed for a moment that he had any intention of shirking engagements entered into; but any hasty language or assumption of a prominent or independent position in matters of European agreement might be injurious to Greece in public estimation.

He said the instructions he had previously alluded to were not for communication to foreign Governments, but to explain his views to his Agents; that he had no idea of attempting to shirk any engagements entered into by Greece.

He told me, confidentially, that he was preparing a Memorandum with respect to the share of Greece in the Ottoman Debt, which, under the Convention of 1881, is "proportionate to the revenues of the ceded territories." In this Memorandum I believe he will dwell on the difference between an excessive revenue raised by extortion—such as may have been raised in various districts of Turkey—and a fair revenue. In Thessaly the revenue was naturally far higher under Turkish than it could be under Greek rule.

I write this merely to inform your Lordship that M. Tricoupi promises that Greece will maintain a correct attitude in this matter, and act up to her engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

E
(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 5, 1883.*

A DESPATCH from the Russian Government, on the subject of the dedicated Church property in Roumania, has been communicated to Count Kálnoky, who presumes it to have been equally laid before your Lordship.

His Excellency states himself to be embarrassed as to the manner in which the question should be treated, but, on the whole, he is disposed to fall in with the view taken of it by the Russian Government.

Of the obligation incumbent upon Roumania of indemnifying the Church for the confiscated property, there could hardly, he said, be two opinions, and the entire disregard by the Government of the then Principality of the decisions of the Great Powers was also a matter of notoriety, but the difficulty in the way of a Commission of Arbitration in fixing an equitable amount might prove to be very great; for in many cases it would be impossible to produce the title-deeds under which the lands had been held, and it would also be alleged, with truth, that the Church had not expended the revenues for the educational and other benevolent objects for which the property had originally been granted.

I understand M. de Giers' despatch to suggest that Roumania should be held to be still bound by the proposal of Prince Couza's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 14.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

E
(No. 109.)

Vienna, April 5, 1883.

My Lord,

AS directed by your Lordshp's despatch No. 90 of the 30th ultimo, I have put into Count Kálnoky's hands the correspondence it contained respecting the position of the Mussulman owners of land in Bulgaria, informing him at the same time that it appeared evident to your Lordship that the unaided efforts of the Turkish Government would not succeed in obtaining the fulfilment of the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I likewise mentioned to Count Kálnoky that, as appears from Sir A. Paget's despatch No. 94, the Italian Government were of opinion that the best course to be followed would be for all the Governments, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, to instruct their Representatives at Sophia to address a representation to the Prince's Government, calling upon them for the exact fulfilment of the dispositions of the Treaty.

His Excellency said that he would be quite ready to instruct the Austro-Hungarian Agent in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 15.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received April 10.)

E
(No. 108.)

Rome, April 6, 1883.

My Lord,

IN compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I communicated to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria, and I have the honour to forward herewith translation of his Excellency's reply, which I received to-day, stating that the Italian Representative at Sophia has already been authorized to join his colleagues in such representations as they may be authorized by their respective Governments to make upon this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Signor Mancini to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)

Rome, April 4, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE received the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me under date of the 2nd April, informing me of Earl Granville's instructions to transmit to me a copy of the correspondence exchanged between the Sublime Porte and the Bulgarian Government regarding the latter's proceedings to the injury of the emigrant Mussulman land-owners. The above correspondence had been recently communicated by the Ottoman Government to Her Majesty's Government. Lord Granville expresses an opinion that Turkey cannot, unaided, insure the faithful execution of Article XII of the Berlin Treaty, and is pleased to call the attention of the King's Government to the state of things recorded in the above documents.

I thank your Excellency for this important communication, and have at the same time the honour to inform you that the correspondence in question had been likewise communicated to the Italian by the Ottoman Government.

I am happy to add that, sharing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, I have already asked for further information from the Italian Agent in Sophia, and have authorized him to take part in any measures for which all his colleagues may be authorized by their Governments.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) MANCINI.

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, April 10, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's note of the 30th ultimo, in which you informed me that the Sublime Porte had been unable to authorize the Prince of Bulgaria to institute a Bulgarian Order, but that His Highness would be permitted to confer Ottoman Orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)

Scutari, March 25, 1883.

My Lord,

IN the concluding paragraph of my despatch No. 36 of the day before yesterday I have had the honour to express to your Lordship some doubt as to the sincerity of the wish said to be entertained by the Turkish Government to compass the settlement of its frontier differences with Montenegro.

My only grounds for doing so are that I cannot understand the value of the steps taken by it for bringing about so desirable an end, nor see the magnitude of the obstacles which the Turkish authorities here so frequently assert impede them.

I am unable to divest myself of the belief that these impediments are of their own creation for the reasons detailed here below.

Bedri Bey's recent mission to Cettinjé was undertaken in open disregard of the opinion of the Powers that it was desirable certain principles, by which a settlement could be arrived at, should be first agreed upon by the two parties most interested in the matter.

My warning to the Turkish Envoy in Cettinjé, that an attempt on the part of Bedri Bey to secure the retrocession direct from Montenegro of the village of Valika, in the district of Gussinjé, would be doomed to failure, was unheeded; as also was my advice to his Excellency not to offer to place boundary marks on the already delimited frontier in North Albania as long as Abdi Pasha remained Vali of Scutari.

The fact that Bedri Bey's proposed mission to Cettinjé might resolve itself into an attempt to permanently fix the Montenegrin frontier in the direction of the Kraïa, was at once allowed to transpire among the natives of that district, who, through the agency of some of their fellow countrymen who are servants or pensioners of the Sultan, were urged to bind themselves under a solemn compact to murder Bedri Bey, or any other Boundary Commissioner who might appear on their borders. Abdi Pasha always maintained in his reports to the Maabeïr (Sultan's Chancery), and to the Seraskier, that, before the Montenegrins could enforce their authority in the Kraïa, "rivers of blood would have to flow."

Bedri Bey was careful to record at Cettinjé that the Turkish Government considered the Kraïa an integral part of Montenegro, and, therefore, would refuse to interfere in any conflict that might arise between the Kraïnotes and the Montenegrins, when the latter reoccupied the district. He, nevertheless, after the signature of the Protocol of the 10th January last, and when he ought to have been aware of the nature of Abdi Pasha's reports, urged the Montenegrin Government to have due regard for the feelings of the Kraïnotes, and not to enter the district in great force, thus almost arranging for the Kraïnotes to be tempted into committing some act of violence.

The peaceful occupation of the Kraïa by the Montenegrins was quite unexpected by the Scutari authorities, who, in their confusion, endeavoured for some days to keep the Porte in ignorance of the fact.

The Turkish Envoy, whilst these frontier negotiations were going on at Cettinjé, studiously kept away, on the plea of ill-health, from the Montenegrin capital, and only returned there after Abdi Pasha's previsions had been falsified.

It is positively asserted by the Chiefs of the Roman Catholic tribes on the borders to the north-east of Lake Scutari that Abdi Pasha admitted to them his sympathy with

their declared intention to resist all cessions of territory on the Podgoritza Plain. His Excellency further said he considered himself free of all responsibility, as the cessions had been arranged without his advice having been first solicited.

Orders from the Porte suspending the further fulfilment of the terms of the Protocol of the 10th January, were not issued because resistance had been encountered in the Kraïa, but only after it had been ascertained that such resistance as had been expected had not arisen.

It is a notorious fact that the Turkish troops are just as much masters of the situation in the Albanian portion of the Podgoritza Plain as they were in the Dulcigno district, and that the moment it becomes apparent that the Porte is really prepared to carry out its engagements towards the Powers and Montenegro the native opposition will collapse, or at least, be quickly made to disappear.

Throughout the whole of the recent efforts of the Porte to procure the reassembling of the entire Commission for the Montenegrin delimitation, no other portion of the frontiers has been officially mentioned as offering difficulties, but that on the Podgoritza Plain, whilst the line around Gussinjé has been the only one to which the Porte really attaches importance, as I have reason to believe, is evident through the private instructions held by Bedri Bey.

These considerations, coupled with the facts that the Turkish Government has not yet consented to abide by the decisions of the majority of the Boundary Commission, and with the affirmation of Bedri Bey that the Albanians would be allowed to assail the Principality if the Porte's proposed frontier-line is rejected, have raised the suspicions in my mind which, I sincerely trust, may prove unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 18.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 39.)
Scutari, March 30, 1883.

My Lord,

SINCE I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 37 of the 23rd instant, the murder of M. Verbitza in the Scutari Bazaar, many incidents have occurred to widen the breach in the daily intercourse between the North Albanians and Montenegrins.

As soon as the news of the assassination reached Cettinjé orders were sent here for all Montenegrins who might happen to be on Albanian territory to return at once to the Principality. The same order was also given by Abdi Pasha, but whether he issued it because he felt that he could not sufficiently protect the Montenegrins, or because he wished to accentuate his pretension that they had provoked the Albanian clansmen into committing the assassination, I cannot say, as his Excellency is not communicative on such matters with the Consuls.

On Easter Monday the Montenegrins, after Scutari was reported clear of all their fellow-countrymen, approached the Castrati district by the lake with a force variously said to be conveyed in from four to twelve barges, and killed three men and two women belonging to the Albanian clan. As the Montenegrins kept for some time their footing on the Castrati territory, a Turkish gun-boat was dispatched to reconnoitre, and troops were prepared to follow, when the invaders withdrew.

Owing to the communications with Montenegro having been interrupted, I have been unable to ascertain how far the Montenegrin Government has cognizance of the above-mentioned aggression. It cannot, however, be disputed that everything in the Principality is so entirely under the control of the Prince's authorities that a denial of responsibility on their part ought not to hold good.

Since Monday's attack the war alarm has been given by the Albanian tribes, and it is reported that they have gathered in great force on the Montenegrin confines in the Podgoritza Plain. As no one has come in from those localities for the last week, and all kinds of rumours are afloat of serious conflicts having occurred between the clansmen and the Montenegrins, I have taken steps to obtain correct information on the subject, but my messenger has not yet returned.

From a quarter which exercises great influence over the Roman Catholic mountaineers I learn that they are convinced that the Turkish authorities do not view with disfavour the hostile attitude they have assumed against Montenegro. The mountaineers, however, consider their quarrel with the Montenegrins as only a convenient

way of bringing about a general disturbance. Their hope is that the Turkish Government will be led into employing its troops against them, and thus entangle itself in a struggle which will end in its expulsion from the country.

The arrival of Mustafa Assym Pasha and his Assistant Special Commissioners will, perhaps, bring about a momentary lull, but affairs have been allowed to drift too long for a complete settlement to be easily attained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 19.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 40.)
Scutari, March 30, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a second note addressed by the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Representatives in the Principality of the Great Powers, on the subject of the objection of the Prince's Government to hold any further negotiations with the Turkish Government concerning the delimitation of the Albano-Montenegrin frontiers.

Until the Porte also accepts the engagement now entered into by Montenegro to abide by the decisions of the majority of the Boundary Commission, and the authority of the Turkish Government is re-established in North Albania, it would be, I venture to think, unadvisable to pay more attention to Voïvoda Radonich's request for the reassemblage of the Demarcation Commission than has been accorded to the similar request put forward by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 19.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Cettigné, le* $\frac{10}{22}$ *Mars*, 1883.

LORS du dernier séjour de la Commission Internationale pour la Délimitation de Monténégro, la Principauté, appuyée par la démonstration de la flotte combinée des Grandes Puissances, a pu entrer pacifiquement en possession du district de Dulcigno dont la frontière a été nettement définie sur les lieux par MM. les Commissaires Européens.

Après avoir accompli ce travail la Commission s'est vue obligée de suspendre ses travaux à cause de la saison avancée et de s'ajourner jusqu'à nouvel ordre. Ceci avait lieu au commencement de l'année 1880. Depuis lors la question de la délimitation des frontières Monténégrines n'a plus été reprise par les Grandes Puissances et le Gouvernement Monténégrin, tout en supportant les fâcheuses conséquences de l'état incertain de choses sur ses frontières, s'est tenu sur la réserve, ne voulant point créer des embarras et des difficultés aux Puissances Européennes, dont l'appui généreux n'a jamais été invoqué en vain par lui.

Le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas s'est appliqué, au contraire, en s'imposant même, quoique inutilement, hélas! des sacrifices considérables, de chercher une combinaison propre à satisfaire ses vrais intérêts sans envenimer ses rapports avec la Turquie.

Je ne vous rappelerai à ce propos, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, que les concessions de Dinoch, Vladjna, et Matagouch faites par nous à la Sublime Porte, sans que ces concessions aient formé l'objet d'une intervention de la part de l'Europe, et cela dans le seul but d'applanir les voies par lesquelles les Grandes Puissances pourraient arriver à l'établissement d'une entente entre la Principauté et l'Empire Ottoman.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin a cru même un moment se féliciter de l'esprit de conciliation qu'il avait apporté dans ses rapports avec la Sublime Porte, voyant que cette dernière s'était enfin décidée à prendre en sérieuse considération les avances amicales du Monténégro.

Vous connaissez, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, avec quel empressement le Monténégro, malgré la saison peu propice à l'exécution de travaux de bornage, associa ses Commis-

saires aux Délégués Ottomans ainsi que le désenchantement que le résultat final de l'entente si laborieusement établie nous causa.

La manière d'agir de la Sublime Porte durant ses derniers pourparlers avec le Monténégro nous prouve jusqu'à l'évidence qu'il nous est désormais interdit de songer à une entente directe avec un Gouvernement manquant si complètement de bonne foi; aussi j'ai eu l'honneur de vous informer en temps utile de la décision prise par mon auguste Maître de remettre entre les mains des Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin la question des frontières Turco-Monténégrines.

Je viens à présent vous prier, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de vouloir bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement et de solliciter auprès de lui l'envoi de son Commissaire à Cettigné, afin de reprendre dans le courant de ce printemps, de concert avec ses collègues, les travaux de la délimitation suspendus en 1880.

A notre avis le seul moyen pratique, pour que les travaux de la Commission puissent être menés à bonne fin, consisterait à autoriser la Commission à résoudre toutes les questions, où une divergence d'opinion se produirait, à la majorité des voix, l'unanimité étant impossible à atteindre vu la présence au sein de la Commission des Délégués des deux parties intéressées. Les décisions prises à la majorité des voix devraient être rendues obligatoires pour les parties intéressées, et, de son côté, le Gouvernement Monténégrin prend l'engagement dès à présent de s'y soumettre avec la même déférence qu'il a toujours montrée vis-à-vis des conseils et des avis émanés des Cabinets Européens et concernant les nombreuses transactions au sujet de nos frontières qui se sont succédées depuis le Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. S. RADONICH.

No. 20.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 30, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a map of the Podgoritza Plain, upon which Bedri Bey has marked for me the Albano-Montenegrin frontier-line settled by the Protocol of the 10th January last, as well as that which he calls the *statu quo* line now proposed by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 21.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 1, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 30th ultimo, that I learn, through the messenger I had dispatched to the mountains, that it was a force of about 300 Montenegrins, conveyed in nine barges, which landed in the district of Castrati on Easter Monday and attacked the village of Kosani.

After a short encounter with the inhabitants, in which five men and one woman were killed, and one man and one woman wounded by the assailants, the latter withdrew to their boats in the face of the natives who had rushed to the rescue in great crowds. Whilst the Montenegrins were retiring from the Bay of Castrati they are reported to have lost nine men through the fire of the clansmen.

My messenger also states that the day before yesterday the North Albanian tribe of Gruda, on the immediate confines of Podgoritza, made a raid in the vicinity of the village of Matagus and surprised an outpost, beheading three and wounding two of the Montenegrins.

It is currently asserted that the Montenegrin Government expresses itself a stranger to the aggressions committed on the Castrati tribe, and that it will not permit their being repeated. However, no comment has yet appeared on the subject in the Cettinjé "Gazette."

As your Lordship is aware, I am not of opinion that the Prince's Government can ever successfully separate itself from the acts of its people, who are most completely under its control.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 22.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 1, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Mouchir Mustafa Assym Pasha, accompanied by Suleiman Pasha and Ferik Bey, Aides-de-camp of the Sultan, arrived here on the 29th ultimo.

Mustafa Assym Pasha was, or still is, Governor of Janina, and came here under telegraphic orders from Constantinople, having been picked up at Santa Quaranta by a war-vessel which had on board the above-named Aides-de-camp.

Mustafa Assym Pasha, as well as Abdi Pasha, has studiously abstained from informing me on what mission he has been sent; but my Austrian colleague tells me that Baron Calice has telegraphed to him that the Mouchir has been appointed Special M'fetish or Inspector in his province.

It appears to me that the Porte has had recourse to too many personages to assist Abdi Pasha in overcoming the disorders which exist in this vilayet, for in Turkey undivided responsibility is the only true means of securing authority and respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 23.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, April 11.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, Le 31 Mars, 1883.*

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme Circulaire du 27 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint copie, avec annexes, d'un Rapport du Ministère de l'Intérieur signalant les incursions fréquentes des bergers Monténégrins sur notre territoire. Ces incursions, en provoquant les légitimes réclamations des Hottis et des Grudis, menacent de donner lieu à de fâcheux incidents.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien y attirer l'attention de M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et Provoquer des représentations propres à assurer l'adoption par le Gouvernement Princier des mesures nécessaires pour empêcher les pâtres Monténégrins de franchir la frontière jusqu'à la fin des travaux de délimitation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Report by the Minister of the Interior to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

UN télégramme du Gouverneur-Général de Scutari-d'Albanie signale les incursions des bergers Monténégrins sur notre territoire. Ces incursions, provoquant le mécontentement des habitants de Hotte et de Grudé, menacent de donner lieu à de fâcheux incidents.

En soumettant ce télégramme à votre Altesse, je la prie de hâter la solution de la question des frontières, quoiqu'elle soit remise au printemps prochain, pour mettre fin aux difficultés qui menacent la tranquillité de cette province, et de faire en même temps des représentations auprès des Puissances à ce sujet.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Despatch addressed to the Ministry of the Interior from the Province of Albania.

(Traduction.)

LES dépêches que j'ai reçues aujourd'hui du Commandant du Caïmacan de Touze m'informent des incursions des bergers Monténégrins sur notre territoire. Ces incursions provoquant le mécontement des habitants de Hotte et de Grudé, le chef de ces derniers a fait entendre aux agresseurs aujourd'hui, le 9, Mercredi, la nécessité de se retirer. Le refus de la part des Monténégrins peut avoir des conséquences fâcheuses.

J'ai donné l'ordre aux autorités de surveiller la frontière. Pour éviter le danger d'une manière sûre, il est indispensable d'empêcher les Monténégrins de traverser notre territoire jusqu'à la solution définitive de la question des frontières.

J'ai donné des informations à ce sujet à la Légation Impériale à Cettingé.

No. 24.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 21.)

Sophia, March 31, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 13 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, so far as I have been able to learn, there are no extraordinary military preparations being made in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian army is being gradually developed, and consists at present of 24 droujinas of infantry, 2 regiments of cavalry, of which the second is as yet only half-formed, 9 batteries of artillery, 2 companies of sappers, and 2 companies of pioneers, the whole amounting, according to the Budget for this year, to 17,000 men. I am, however, informed that, in reality, the army does not exceed 16,000 at the utmost! After two years' service the men who have served in the Bulgarian army are placed in the reserve, and as the army has now been in existence for four years, and the time of service for about half the number of men under arms finishes each year, the reserves amount at present to about 32,000 men. I understand, however, that it would be impossible to put anything like that number of men of the reserves in the field, as the cadres for the different regiments do not as yet exist.

With regard to the statement contained in the despatch from the Turkish Commercial Agent at Varna, that the Russian steamer "Constantine" had disembarked 500 cases containing rifles, I have to observe that, as all the arms and ammunition for the Bulgarian army are purchased in Russia, it is only natural that they should be disembarked at Varna. I have been informed that the real number of cases containing rifles was 82, and not 500.

My Italian colleague informs me that, having been instructed to report whether there was any truth in a rumour which had reached the Porte, that the Bulgarian army was about to be mobilized, he has convinced himself that the only foundation for the rumour is that a plan for rendering the mobilization of the army possible is under the consideration of the Ministry of War.

There is no doubt that the Bulgarian army has arrived at a state of efficiency which does great credit to the Russian officers who have been employed in forming it, and which is in a large measure due to the interest taken in it by the Prince of Bulgaria himself, and it is probable that no efforts will be spared to bring the army to a state of perfection which will make it an important factor in any future complications which may arise in the Balkan Peninsula. There are, however, no signs of any extraordinary military preparations having been recently made, although it may be a matter of regret that so large a portion of the revenues of the Principality should be devoted each year to military purposes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 25.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 215. Confidential.)

Constantinople, April 10, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 99 of the 29th ultimo as to the treatment of Mussulman owners of land in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Government, and to report that I have, in accordance with your orders, confidentially communicated its substance to Aarifi Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was much gratified, and earnestly begged for a résumé of it in French, with a view of submitting it to the Sultan, with which request I complied.

In bringing this matter to the knowledge of the Porte, I availed myself of the occasion to point out how advantageous it would be if the Turkish Government would show itself a little more ready to pay favourable attention to questions involving not only purely British interests, but also to matters connected with the internal administration of Turkey, which Her Majesty's Embassy from time to time brought to the notice of the Imperial Government, with a view to the interests of the Empire.

His Highness replied that it was hardly necessary for him to express to me further his own views and feelings on the subject, which he believed were well known to me.

I yesterday called upon the Grand Vizier, and I mentioned to him also the steps your Lordship was taking with a view of obtaining the proper execution of the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and his Highness begged me to convey to your Lordship his most grateful thanks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 26.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 86.)

St. Petersburgh, April 10, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 73 of the 9th ultimo relating to the failure of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission to make any progress in the business for which it was appointed under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin. On the 28th ultimo I called upon M. de Giers, and handed him a copy of your Lordship's despatch, and of its inclosures, saying, at the same time, that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to be informed of the views of the Imperial Government as to the best mode of arriving at a solution of the questions to which that despatch relates.

M. de Giers replied that an application had already been made to him upon this subject by my Turkish colleague, but that finding that it involved questions of rather an abstruse nature, and demanded a careful study of precedents, he had given directions that a report upon it should be prepared in his office, and he promised that as soon as it was ready he would communicate to me its contents. He, however, expressed his private and personal opinion that the Porte was asking a great deal more than it was entitled to in accordance with international usage.

I have since twice seen M. de Giers, the last time yesterday, but he informs me that the report in question is not yet ready.

On the receipt, on the 8th instant, of your Lordship's despatch No. 96 of the 30th ultimo, I addressed to his Excellency a short note, copy of which is inclosed, transmitting copy of the inclosure in that despatch, which shows the unfortunate position of Mussulman owners of land in Bulgaria, and inviting his attention to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Sir E. Thornton to M. de Giers.

M. le Ministre, *St. Petersburgh, March 29/April 10*, 1883.

ON the 23rd March/4th April, I had the honour to give to your Excellency a copy of a despatch and of its inclosures, which had been addressed to me by Earl Granville, respecting the proceedings of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission, and its failure to make any progress in the business for which it was appointed under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin. His Lordship has now forwarded to me copy of a despatch from the Porte to the Turkish Ambassador in London, inclosing the correspondence which has recently taken place on this subject with the Bulgarian Government; from which it is evident that the unaided efforts of the Turkish Government will not succeed in obtaining the proper fulfilment of the above-mentioned Article.

Earl Granville has instructed me to invite your Excellency's attention to the state of affairs disclosed in this correspondence, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 27.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 3*, 1883.

WITH reference to the Montenegrin attack on the Albanian clansmen of Castrati, described in my despatches Nos. 39 and 43 of the 30th ultimo and 1st instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas has publicly expressed his disapproval of the proceeding, and has caused those who were in command of the attacking party to be imprisoned.

His Highness has also renewed his directions that on no account are Montenegrins to act against the Albanians on the territory of the latter, except under orders from the Central Government at Cettinjé.

It is not at all impossible, owing to the serious loss suffered by the Montenegrins, six killed and six wounded (five of the latter are said to have died), that the officers in command are under arrest for having mismanaged an expedition which, I still feel obliged to believe, could never have been undertaken except under superior orders.

The banishment of these officers has the double advantage of offering a satisfaction to Montenegrin wounded public estimation for a military failure, and of furnishing the Prince with an answer, should the recent aggressions expose His Highness to representations from foreign Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 28.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 49. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 9*, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 4th January last, that, when I was in Cettinjé two months ago, I took an opportunity of mentioning to Prince Nicholas the bad effect that had been produced in North Albania by the difficulties which had been encountered by a Roman Catholic priest in celebrating mass at Cettinjé and Rieka during the Christmas festivities.

The Prince did not appear pleased with my observations, although I was careful to state that they were made more in a friendly spirit than as an official representation.

An allusion to the XXVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin being met by the assertion that His Highness intended to be master in his own country, I thought it well to close the discussion with the remark, that I had full confidence in His Highness' sense of right and religious tolerance.

I now, however, learn that the Montenegrin Government has anew, during Easter, interfered with the free exercise of Roman Catholic worship, both at Cettinjé and Rieka, notwithstanding that the Primate of Scutari endeavoured, as far as possible, to meet the Prince's wish that Roman Catholic ecclesiastical matters in Montenegro should be kept separate from those of North Albania.

With this object the Rev. Don Giovanni Vitich, the parish priest of Zubci, a village in the Montenegrin district of Antivari, was selected, instead of a Franciscan monk from Scutari, to proceed to Cettinjé for the Easter celebrations.

On arrival in the Montenegrin capital, Don Giovanni Vitich was sent for by the Prince and informed that his coming was in contravention of existing orders, and that he would only be permitted to perform Mass on Easter Sunday out of regard for the recommendation he had brought with him from the Vicar of Antivari, who is the person whom the Montenegrin Government wishes the Pope to name Roman Catholic Bishop of the Principality.

When, on Easter Monday, Don Giovanni Vitich went to Rieka, the police formally prevented him from administering to the spiritual wants of the Roman Catholic community there, and intimated that his speedy return to his parish of Zubci was desirable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 18*, 1883, 6·30 P.M.

YOU may join with the Austrian Ambassador in impressing upon Porte policy of Prince Alexander being treated at Constantinople in manner due to his position, so as to place relations between Sultan and his vassal on satisfactory footing.

No. 30.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 122. Ext. 20.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 18*, 1883.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 33 of the 11th instant, informing me that one of the Sultan's yachts had been ordered to Varna in order to bring the Prince of Bulgaria to Constantinople, I have to state that I have been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna that the Austro-Hungarian Representative at Constantinople has been instructed to endeavour to make the Porte understand how desirable it is that the relations between the Sultan and his vassal should be put upon a satisfactory footing by engaging His Majesty to treat the Prince in the manner due to his position.

I have to instruct you to join with your Austro-Hungarian colleague in recommending the Porte to accord a courteous reception to the Prince.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 103.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 19*, 1883.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 107 of the 5th instant, I have to inform your Excellency that I have not yet received from the Russian Government the communication regarding the dedicated Church property in Roumania referred to by Count Kálnoky.

The views of Her Majesty's Government on this question are set forth in the accompanying copy of a note addressed by me to the Roumanian Minister at this Court on the 26th January, 1882, and I informed the Turkish Ambassador in

November last that Her Majesty's Government were quite willing to join with the other Powers in considering the question whenever those Powers intimated their willingness to enter into an examination of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 138.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 20, 1883.*

YOU will have received copy of a despatch, with its inclosures (No. 6 of the 28th ultimo), from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting upon the unsettled condition of affairs in Dibra and other districts in Upper Albania.

Mr. Blunt in that despatch calls attention to the strong feeling of insubordination among the Mahommedan Albanians against the Ottoman authorities, who seem to be powerless and incapable of keeping order. From the information obtained by Mr. Blunt on the subject, it appears that the Albanians have assumed a threatening attitude towards the Christian shopkeepers in Dibra, and that various acts of forcible expulsion, and even of murder, have taken place.

I have to request you to communicate the substance of those Reports to the Sublime Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 20, 1883.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 28, Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, reporting the language held to you by M. Tricoupi with regard to the relations between Greece and Turkey; and I have to instruct you to take every opportunity of impressing upon the Greek Government the necessity of moderation in its policy towards the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 20, 1883.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 40 of the 30th ultimo, forwarding copy of a note from the Montenegrin Government urging the reassembling of the International Commission for the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, and stating the reasons for which you consider it advisable to accede to this request at the present moment.

I have to inform you that I concur in the views expressed by you in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 21, 1883.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 43 of the 1st instant, informing me of the raid made by 300 Montenegrins upon the village of Kosani, in the district of Castrati.

I have to instruct you to inform the Montenegrin Government that they cannot expect any assistance from the Powers in settling their difficulties with Turkey if they do not restrain their subjects from these acts of aggression and violence, which merit severe punishment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 36.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 227.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 16, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 112 of the 6th instant, and to inform your Lordship that, since the receipt of your first instructions, I have lost no opportunity of expressing to my colleagues the views of Her Majesty's Government as to taking measures for the definitive settlement of the questions relating to the amount of tribute due by Bulgaria to Turkey, and the share of the Ottoman Debt to be borne by the Principality, by Servia, Montenegro, and Greece.

Since I last had the honour to address your Lordship on this subject, M. de Nelidoff has informed me that he has received instructions to enter into communication with his colleagues upon it, and the Austrian Ambassador has expressed his willingness to invite the Representatives of the Great Powers to meet at the Austrian Embassy, in order to exchange views with regard to the course to be adopted to give effect to your Lordship's views.

I trust, therefore, to be shortly able to give your Lordship a Report as to the opinions of my colleagues on this matter, but I cannot disguise from your Lordship that I anticipate that many objections will be raised by the Russian Minister, although he acknowledges, in principle, that it would be but equitable to carry into execution the Articles of the Berlin Treaty which are favourable to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 37.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received April 23.)

E
(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 18, 1883.*

I INFORMED Count Kálnoky of the language used by your Lordship in your despatch No. 66 to Mr. Wyndham upon the question of the Bulgarian tribute.

His Excellency said that the views expressed by your Lordship are so identical with his own, that he will write precisely in the same sense to Baron Calice.

He concurs with your Lordship in holding that the subject might be discussed by the Representatives at Constantinople without a formal Conference being held; and he believes that the unwillingness of the Russian Government to have the matter entered upon arises from their intention of putting forward, as a prior claim, a demand for the repayment of the expenses of their occupation of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 38.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, April 23, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the Sublime Porte, dated the 31st ultimo, which your Excellency has been good enough to communicate to me, relative to the incursions of Montenegrin shepherds on Turkish territory, and requesting that representations may be addressed to the Government of the Principality, that the necessary measures may be adopted to put a stop to such proceedings.

Her Majesty's Government fear that no action on their part is likely to remedy the state of things complained of; and that, unless a serious endeavour be made by the Porte to settle the question of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier in accordance with the recommendation of the Powers, further difficulties and disputes are certain to take place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 39.

Earl Granville to Count Nigra.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

WITH reference to the inquiry made by your Excellency at this Office on the 16th instant with regard to the ill-treatment of Mussulman land-owners in Bulgaria by the Government of the Principality, and as to the action which Her Majesty's Government were taking in the matter, I have the honour to inform you that Circular despatches were addressed by Her Majesty's Government on the 9th and 30th ultimo to the Queen's Representatives to the Signatory Powers of the Berlin Treaty, instructing them to ascertain the views of the different Governments as to the best mode of obtaining the proper fulfilment of the XIIIth Article of the Treaty.

No action has since been taken by Her Majesty's Government, who are awaiting replies to their Circulars, of which copies are inclosed for your Excellency's information.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 40.

Earl Granville to Count Nigra.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their careful consideration the suggestions made by your Excellency on the 16th instant with regard to the appeal of the Montenegrin Government to the Great Powers, urging the reassembly of the International Commission for the demarcation of the Turco-Montenegrin boundary.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider that the time has not yet arrived for any intervention in the matter, as until the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments shall have come nearer to a settlement than they have hitherto done the good offices of the Powers would not, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be likely to meet with a successful result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* See Part LXXIII, Nos. 119 and 147.

No. 41.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

E (No. 52.)

Scutari, April 17, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that nearly the whole of the Chiefs of the Great Mountain clans have failed to answer the summons sent them to appear at Scutari shortly after Mustafa Assym Pasha's arrival here more than a fortnight ago.

Those who have come have merely done so as they belong to fractions of tribes having property, besides flocks and herds, on the lowlands near the coast.

Their reception by Mustafa Assym Pasha has not been of a nature to encourage the absentees to obey the summons. His Excellency has announced that if all those guilty of blood-feuds and other acts of violence are not immediately brought in and delivered to the authorities he will punish the whole of the tribes and enforce his wishes with troops.

The mountaineers are evidently under the impression that the Turkish Government cannot dispose of sufficient troops to coerce them; therefore it is probable that before long the Porte will be under the necessity of enabling Mustafa Assym Pasha to prove that he has not been making use of empty threats.

The Mirdite Chiefs, who do not belong to the Great Mountain, have all come to Scutari and paid the Pasha the usual homage. An understanding may, however, exist between them and the other Roman Catholic tribes as to common action should military operations be undertaken against any one of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 42.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

E (No. 53.)

Scutari, April 17, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Mustafa Assym Pasha having, a few days ago, sent, by an Albanian Notable, named Haidar Agha Bellego, a letter to Prince Nicholas, who is at present at Niesic, announcing to His Highness his (Mustafa Assym Pasha's) arrival in North Albania, with the object of restoring order in the province, Prince Nicholas has responded to the friendly advances of the Mouchir by transmitting to Scutari his acknowledgment of the communication through M. Gavro Milanof Vukotić, Secretary of the Montenegrin Senate.

M. Vukotić, who arrived here yesterday, has been received with great distinction by the Turkish authorities, and every possible precaution has been taken to guard him against any untoward attack by the mountaineers.

He informs me that Prince Nicholas has gladly availed himself of the opportunity offered him by the Pasha to show how anxious the Montenegrin Government is to facilitate the course of amicable relations between the Principality and North Albania, and to overlook the past the moment there is the slightest sign of the existence of a similar wish on the side of the Turkish Government.

M. Vukotic truly says that Montenegro and North Albania, for all practical purposes, are just now as much separated from each other as if actual war was going on between them. He adds that, notwithstanding the passing amenities, Prince Nicholas has little hope that Mustafa Assym Pasha will be allowed by those behind him toimprove the present state of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 43.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 54.)

Scutari, April 17, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the expected visit of Prince Alexander of Bulgaria to Montenegro, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that it is now believed at

Cettinjé that His Highness will arrive there about the 7th or 8th May, and that he will come to the Principality before going to Greece.

A small steam-yacht, which Prince Nicholas has recently purchased from an English gentleman, has been sent to Trieste to convey Prince Alexander from thence to Cattaro.

This change in the route originally announced will prevent Prince Nicholas and Prince Alexander from proceeding to Russia together.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 44.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 55. Confidential.)
Scutari, April 17, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I understand the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé has intimated to the Montenegrin Government that he expects he will be called upon to present the Prince of Bulgaria to Prince Nicholas on his arrival at the Montenegrin capital.

I believe Riza Bey is already aware that it is probable his claim will be disregarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 45.

M. de Giers to Baron Mohrenheim.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Baron Mohrenheim, April 30.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le 8 Avril*, 1883.

VOTRE Excellence voudra bien se rappeler de l'incident qui a brusquement mis fin aux travaux de bornage de la frontière Monténégrine: le Monténégro a été obligé de les interrompre et même de suspendre ses relations avec le Représentant Ottoman à Cettigné, parce que les Commissaires Turcs élevaient des prétentions incompatibles avec l'arrangement intervenu entre les deux parties.

Une communication Turque a cherché à expliquer cet incident. Il était motivé par la demande de conserver à la Turquie quelques kilomètres de territoire réclamés avec insistance par des Malissors Albanais. Cette demande, insignifiante selon la Porte elle-même, a cependant entraîné toutes les fâcheuses conséquences que le Monténégro prévoyait et qui l'ont porté à ne pas l'admettre. Les Malissors, encouragés par l'appui de la Turquie, semblent aujourd'hui se considérer comme assez forts pour entraver la délimitation en général, se croient assurés d'une entière impunité et se livrent à des déprédations de tout genre. Un état de trouble et de désordre règne sur la frontière. Il est d'autant plus injustifiable qu'en somme, comme l'expérience l'a prouvé sur d'autres points, les populations locales ne sont guère à craindre quant elles ne se sentent pas moralement soutenues par les autorités.

En présence de cette situation le Monténégro a déjà saisi les Puissances de l'envoi sur les lieux, dès que la saison du printemps le permettrait, de la Commission Européenne de Délimitation, dont les opérations ont été suspendues en 1880. Il demande que cette Commission prenne ses décisions à la majorité des voix. Cette condition semble en effet nécessaire vu l'impossibilité d'arriver autrement à une solution quelconque à cause de la participation de la Turquie.

En vous chargeant de vouloir bien appuyer les demandes Monténégrines je vous prie d'informer en même temps le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité que nous nous empresserons de faire partir notre Délégué dès qu'un accord se sera établi entre les Cabinets sur la reprise de la délimitation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 46.

Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.

E
(No. 126.) *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1883.

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and left with me the Circular from his Government, of which I inclose a copy, relative to the request of the Montenegrin Government that the International Commission for the delimitation of the frontier may resume its operations, and may be empowered to decide disputed points by the vote of the majority.* The Russian Government consider this request to be reasonable, and express their readiness to dispatch their Commissioner as soon as the Powers have come to an agreement.

I told Baron Mohrenheim that both our Chargé d'Affaires in Montenegro, and the officer who had been employed as British Delegate on the Frontier Commission, had expressed their opinion that no useful purpose would be served by the reassembling of the Commission until some preliminary understanding had been arrived at between the Porte and Montenegro, and unless the Porte were ready to accept the decisions of the majority of the Commission. I added that I agreed in that view, and that I was ready to join in any steps that might appear advisable to the other Powers to bring about a settlement of the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 47.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

E
(No. 56.) *Scutari, April* 22, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Mustafa Assym Pasha yesterday proceeded to Ricka, where, by appointment, he met Prince Nicholas.

The friendly intercourse which has thus been established with Montenegro is a very satisfactory feature in the Pasha's mission here; and although it is asserted that none of the pending questions with the Principality have yet been discussed, still I have no doubt that a practical opening has been made for their settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 48.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

E
(No. 57.) *Scutari, April* 24, 1883.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY, during a visit at my house, Mustafa Assym Pasha indirectly afforded me an opportunity of expressing to him my opinion on the present attitude of the great mountain clans towards the Turkish authorities of the vilayet.

I told his Excellency that I considered the position most critical, and that no time ought to be lost in arriving at a satisfactory understanding with the mountaineers.

I explained that I thought it would be impossible to do so as long as the Government retained the idea of holding the tribesmen to account for past offences and blood-feuds, for there was hardly a tribe or a family free from guilt. An amnesty for the past, accompanied by a Proclamation to the effect that from the day of its publication speedy punishment would, without fail, be dealt for all offences, whether political or personal, I was convinced would meet the case.

Mustafa Assym Pasha said that he shared my views, but that he could not publish an amnesty until he was provided with a sufficient force to make the mountaineers understand that it was accorded in a spirit of generosity and not through weakness. A reinforcement of two battalions of infantry, which he expected to arrive in a day or two, he hoped would be sufficient to awe the clansmen into inactivity until further troops could be sent to Scutari.

* No. 45.

I also understood Mustafa Assym Pasha to imply that he could do nothing before the Porte had carried out its intention of withdrawing Abdi Pasha from North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 49.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 4.)

(Confidentielle.)
(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 3 Mai, 1883.

D'APRES les informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte, la Grèce, la Bulgarie, la Servie, et le Monténégro auraient conclu une alliance offensive contre l'Empire.

Aux termes de cette entente, la Bulgarie prendrait l'initiative des hostilités.

En égard à la gravité de cette nouvelle, je prie votre Excellence d'en entretenir d'une manière toute confidentielle le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité et de me télégraphier sans retard les renseignements qu'elle pourra obtenir à ce sujet.

No. 50.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 162.)

Foreign Office, May 4, 1883.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and gave me the telegram, of which I inclose a copy,* relative to a supposed offensive alliance against Turkey, concluded between Greece, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro.

I told Musurus Pasha that I had received no information corroborative of such a report, that we had continually advised the Greek Government to keep on good terms with Turkey, and that our advice had lately been well received.

Musurus Pasha then alluded to a Reuter's telegram which had appeared in some of the newspapers reporting the demonstrative reception given to the Prince of Bulgaria on his arrival at Athens.

I said that I thought it very probable that the Prince would have such a reception, but that I did not think such an incident could be considered as of serious political importance or as confirming the rumour mentioned in the telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 51.

E *Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7.)*

(No. 267.)

Constantinople, May 1, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE learnt that the Porte has agreed to the construction of a Russian memorial chapel in the Shipka Pass, to be erected, however, in accordance with the plans of the Turkish Ministry of War, and not with those of the Russian Government.

I have informed Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli of this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

---

* No. 49.

No. 52.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 268.)

Constantinople, May 1, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, forwarding copies of a correspondence which has passed between Aleko Pasha and the Porte respecting certain villages which I believe were assigned by the Boundary Commission to Eastern Roumelia, and the inhabitants of which appear to be now most anxious to be under the government of that province.

I venture to suggest that a representation to the Porte on the subject by the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin might hasten a satisfactory solution of this question, and in the meantime, pending instructions from your Lordship, I have written privately to Captain Jones recommending him to dissuade Aleko Pasha from taking any measures of a violent nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Wyndham.

Philippopoli, April 19, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of correspondence which has passed between the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia and the Grand Vizier on the subject of the unsubmitted villages of the Rouptchous-Rhodope.

In my despatch of the 26th August, 1881, I had the honour to explain to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the said villages consist of two groups, sixteen belonging to the district of Philippopoli, and four, namely, Dochan, Naipli, Karaboutak, and Seltcha, lying further westward, to the district of Tatar-Bazardjik: these last contain altogether about 360 houses and 1,800 inhabitants, who depend chiefly for their subsistence on the traffic they carry on with their Roumelian neighbours. On more than one occasion of late they have manifested a readiness, even an inclination, to be incorporated in the province, but are prevented taking any overt step in this direction by fear of their Mudir, Ohmed Aga Baratonli, and the irreconcilables whom he represents. They desire, therefore, to be secured against the effects of his resentment, and implore the Roumelian Government to take the necessary measures for their protection.

Aleko Pasha informs the Grand Vizier of this in his telegram of the 14th instant, and requests that orders may be at once given to the Vali of Salonica to put a stop to the arbitrary and oppressive conduct of the said Ahmed Aga; otherwise, he (Aleko) will be constrained to send an armed force for the protection of the inhabitants of the district, and further, he declines to be responsible for whatever untoward consequences may indirectly result from this measure.

The Grand Vizier, in reply, observes that the Seraskier entertains grave doubts as to the validity of the provincial claims to these districts; that the question engages attention at present, and the decision when known will be communicated to the Governor-General and to the Vali of Salonica. He warns him, at the same time, against taking the precipitate step he proposes, as it rests with the Sultan alone to remove any source of oppression, if indeed such really exist; that the employment of an armed force by the Governor-General for this purpose would be a transgression of the limits of his authority, from the effects of which no resolution on the part of his Privy Council could absolve him.

Aleko Pasha in reply to this—16th instant—calls his Highness' attention to the flagrant contradiction existing between the tenour of this last despatch and that of several others sent previously by him, in which the rights of the province over the districts in question were fully recognized. He protests against the responsibility which the Grand Vizier endeavours to throw on him for whatever evil consequences may indirectly result from the measures he judges it necessary to take for the protection of these Roumelian subjects from the malice of their enemies.

This last the Grand Vizier answers by telegram of the 17th instant, in which he repeats the instructions last communicated, and further prescribes that the villages in

question now under the authority of the Vali of Salonica must remain so, notwithstanding their desire to be incorporated with Eastern Roumelia, until the Imperial Government see fit to decide otherwise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 53.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 25, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Mustafa Assym Pasha has officially informed me to-day that Abdi Pasha has been removed from the Government of North Albania, and that he (Mustafa Assym Pasha) has been temporarily charged with the supreme civil and military command of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 54.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

E
(No. 59. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 27, 1883.*

M. GAVRO VUKOTIČ, whose visit to Scutari I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship in my despatch No. 53 of the 17th instant, once more returned here yesterday from Cettinjé.

M. Vukotič, whilst anew publishing that his mission is merely a continuance of the complimentary intercourse which has arisen between Prince Nicholas and Mustafa Assym Pasha, has admitted to me that negotiations are being carried on between His Highness and his Excellency, and that Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, is, in accordance with the Pasha's wish, kept in complete ignorance of their scope.

That these negotiations are entirely unconnected with the settlement of the Albano-Montenegrin frontier I cannot believe; still, I think it is quite possible that more importance than usual may have been attached to protestations which Prince Nicholas is in the habit of making to Turkish functionaries with whom he may come in contact as to the identity of political interests now existing between Montenegro and Turkey so far as concerns the proximity of the two countries to Austria.

The Prince's well-known confidence in his power as a negotiator may have easily tempted him into a discussion which he did not intend to bear any other result than to mark to those around him the value which is attached in various quarters to the friendship of Montenegro.

The irritation which has been caused in the Principality and elsewhere through Italy's adhesion to the Austro-German alliance may also be facilitating the course of the mission confided to Mustafa Assym Pasha and the two Aides-de-camp of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 55.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)*
(No. 60.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 27, 1883.*

IN connection with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 11 (? 13) of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I to-day availed myself of the presence of M. Gavro Vukotič in Scutari to ask him whether he had not been empowered by Prince Nicholas to come to an understanding with Mustafa Assym Pasha for the return to North Albania of those Montenegrins who had been obliged to withdraw from the province through the action of the Albanian clansmen.

M. Gavro Vukotič replied that Mustafa Assym Pasha had informed Prince Nicholas that he was actively engaged in endeavouring to bring to justice the murderers of M. Stefan Verbitza. His Excellency had, however, at the same time, begged His Highness not to relax the measures taken to prevent the presence of Montenegrins in North Albania until the authorities at Scutari could answer with certainty for their safety.

Although it is probable that the Montenegrins were recalled to the Principality when it was intended to act independently against the Albanian mountaineers, it is now satisfactory to observe that the measure has been transformed into one of complete accord between the Montenegrin Government and the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 56.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)*
(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 28, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the day before yesterday a great meeting was held in the district of the Castrati tribe, at which delegates from all the mountain clans of North Albania were present.

The important Mahommedan tribes of Crasnič and Gusič, and all other Moslem fractions of clans, were duly represented at this meeting, where a solemn "bessa," or engagement, was entered into to resist every cession of territory belonging to the North Albanian mountains which the Turkish Government might attempt to carry out.

The dangerous feature in this "bessa" is the facility which it affords for any administrative measure which the Turkish authorities may desire to put into execution being misunderstood and represented as the commencement of an attack on the territorial integrity of the mountains.

The Baïracktar, or Standard-bearer, of the Castrati tribe was unanimously elected at the meeting to be the Supreme Chief of the clans in case a need for action should arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 57.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 6, 1883.*

THE Prince of Bulgaria, accompanied by his elder brother, arrived here on Thursday morning in a Russian man-of-war from the Holy Land, where they had spent a day or two after leaving Constantinople.

They remained here two days, and started yesterday for Montenegro.

After his visit to Cettinjé the Prince of Bulgaria will go to Moscow.

M. Tricoupi tells me that he was favourably impressed with the Prince; that he talked no nonsense about possible eventualities, but in their interview talked to him in a business-like manner about present difficulties and questions.

The most important of these is that of the Bulgarian Church, and the support asked of the Greek Synod at Constantinople.

The Greeks would be willing to come to agreement were the Bulgarian Church jurisdiction to be confined to Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and even possibly to make minor concessions in cases of purely Bulgarian communities under certain conditions.

It is hardly probable, however, that this difficulty will be promptly solved, but other matters, such as the position of Greek subjects, Greek schools, &c., in Bulgaria, are now in a more satisfactory condition.

Prince Alexander's language was by no means that of a dependant of Russia; he deplored that, owing to the dearth of suitable persons in Bulgaria, he was obliged to

have recourse to foreign officials, but he strongly insisted on the importance of small States doing all they can to avoid the interference of third parties in their affairs.

I believe that the feeling that this circular journey of the Bulgarian Prince may be disapproved of at Vienna is not foreign to M. Tricoupi's being more pleased at His Highness' visit, than are, perhaps, the generality of the Greek public.

This, however, is a minor matter; the main fact is that both the King and M. Tricoupi have told me that there was no plotting during the Prince's visit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 58.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 289.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 138 of the 20th ultimo, and to inform you that, on the 16th ultimo, I laid before the Sublime Porte, in a Memorandum, the substance of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch No. 6 of the 28th March last to your Lordship, a copy of which he sent to me, and that I have now again drawn the attention of Aarifi Pasha to the unsettled state of affairs in Upper Albania, informing His Highness that I did so by your Lordship's orders.

His Highness stated that he had referred my *pro-memorid* to Edhem Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, who, in his turn, said that he had written on the subject to the Imperial authorities in Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 186.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 18, 1883.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 268 of the 1st instant, with its inclosures, relative to the dispute between the Porte and the Government of Eastern Roumelia with regard to certain villages in the Rhodope district, and I approve of your having recommended Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli to dissuade Aleko Pasha from taking any measures of a violent nature with the object of asserting the claim of Eastern Roumelia to the villages in question.

The Earl of Dufferin, in his despatch No. 852, Confidential, of the 3rd October, 1881, informed me of the result of a discussion of this question among the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

At that time they were not prepared to press the matter with the Porte, but in view of the present state of the question they may be disposed to take some steps to obtain a settlement of it, and I have therefore to instruct you to bring the matter under their consideration, and to endeavour to get them to join in a representation to the Porte on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)*

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 5, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the removal of Abdi Pasha from the government of this province, announced last week, has so far been modified that he, Abdi Pasha, has now been directed, through the issue of a fresh Iradé, to remain for the present in Scutari.

This proceeding has necessarily at once weakened Mustafa Assym Pasha's authority, and his Excellency has admitted to me that, notwithstanding the present critical position in North Albania, he is obliged to remain inactive.

I have also understood from his Excellency that he has placed before the Sultan the whole state of affairs here, and has intimated that he wishes to be recalled if he is not to be allowed to take measures which he thinks are requisite for the re-establishment of Turkish authority in the country.

Mustafa Assym Pasha added to me that his duty towards the Sultan forced him to keep silent as to the manner in which his representations had been received at Constantinople.

My expectations, therefore, that the special Mission to North Albania gave small promise of a successful issue are already partly fulfilled.

The matter is, as usual, becoming a Palace intrigue, or struggle for influence between Pashas.

Suleiman Pasha, the senior of the two Aides-de-camp of the Sultan who accompanied Mustafa Assym Pasha here, and Bedri Bey, the Montenegro Boundary Commissioner, have been recalled to, and have left for, Constantinople; whilst the second Aide-de-camp, Ferik Bey, and Abdi Pasha seemingly remain to watch Mustafa Assym Pasha.

It is not at all improbable that the serious view taken by Mustafa Assym Pasha of the state of the vilayet, and his urgent demands for a large increase of the military force here, may have alarmed the Sultan.

There is no doubt that the power to use force might lead the Pasha into taking steps which might drive the clansmen into open rebellion, but timid inaction like that lately followed by Abdi Pasha can only end in disaster.

Mustafa Assym Pasha believes that a simple display of force would be sufficient to immediately awe the province into an allegiance from which, he affirms, it is rapidly being withdrawn through Austro-Hungarian agitation.

I have endeavoured to obtain from his Excellency precise information as to this alleged agitation, which is apparently the only explanation which occurs to Turkish officials for accounting for the disaffection which has arisen among the North Albanian clansmen. Mustafa Assym Pasha has not, however, been able to give me any other data than those reported from time to time by me to your Lordship with regard to the travels of Austro-Hungarians in these parts.

I have warned his Excellency—evidently to little purpose—that his suspicions, if unfounded, might give rise to unpleasant complications, and that I thought it was quite possible disaffection may have arisen among the Roman Catholic Albanians solely through the shortcomings of the Turkish Administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 61.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 165A. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, May 16, 1883.*

PRINCE BISMARCK told me to-day that, as I was going home on leave of absence, he would be obliged if I would explain verbally and in strict confidence to your Lordship what follows:

He was glad, he said, to steer a course with England and act in concert with Her Majesty's Government whenever German interests admitted of it, and he had cordially supported our Egyptian policy, and was ever ready to assist in carrying out the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty; but in one question he could not follow Her Majesty's Government, and that was the Armenian question.

In his opinion, no good could come from the constant pressure of foreign Powers at Constantinople, which humiliated the Sultan in the eyes of his subjects, and weakened him in the eyes of his enemies.

The Treaty of Berlin, and all that followed, had taken so much blood from the Sultan that he wanted time and quiet to recover strength enough to look after his own concerns and keep order in his own house.

It was essential for the peace of Europe that the Oriental question should not be revived too soon, and for that reason it was essential not to stir up minor questions

which could encourage the renewal of complications and the avidity of the Sultan's enemies.

Russia, he sincerely believed, was willing to be passive for the present, but any encouragement given to national aspirations in Armenia might induce her to return to an active policy, and take up arms for the liberation of the Armenian nationality from the Ottoman yoke; and if Russia invaded Armenia, what Power or Powers would undertake to drive her out of it again?

Convinced as he was of the importance of avoiding any pressure at Constantinople which tended to rouse Russian ambition in the East again, he had telegraphed to the German Ambassador, M. de Radowitz, to maintain a strictly neutral attitude in regard to the Armenian policy of Her Majesty's Government; and he now begged I would explain his reasons for so doing to your Lordship when I returned to England.

I said that, as far as I knew, no undue pressure had been put upon the Sultan in regard to Armenia. His Majesty had certainly been repeatedly advised to send an able and enlightened Governor to Armenia, who could report to the Sultan what measures were needed to save that unhappy country from the state of anarchy it is suffering from, and which is far more likely to make the Armenians call upon Russia for protection than the re-establishment of law and order by the Sultan at the instigation of a friendly Power.

There was nothing in the humane and well-meant advice of Her Majesty's Government that could humiliate the Sultan or weaken his authority; and I felt sure that if his Highness would exert the great influence he possessed at Constantinople in favour of Armenia, our excellent and well-considered advice would be followed, the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin would be fulfilled, and both the Sultan and the people of Armenia would be the gainers by it.

Prince Bismarck said that charity began at home; that he found making the subjects of his Master, the German Emperor, happy took up all his time, without attempting to minister to the happiness of those of the Sultan; that interference with the happiness of other Sovereigns' subjects was philanthropy, and that he hated philanthropy in politics. That was, however, neither here nor there; and all he wished to explain was that he must respectfully decline to accede to Lord Dufferin's request to M. de Radowitz for support in pressing Armenian reforms on the Sultan, however much he regretted not to be able for this once to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government. The treatment that he himself would apply to the Sultan, in the interest of Germany and general peace, would be that of a friend interested in the recovery of a convalescent from whom he has nothing to inherit, but on whose recovery the peace of the family depends. He would soothe and strengthen him, so as to prepare him for self-defence against the new danger looming in the distance in the shape of an alliance between Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece, the object of which appeared to be the organization among the inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula of popular declarations and votes, according to their respective nationalities, in favour of annexation to the States composing the League, on the same plan and system as was adopted and successfully carried out in Italy by Count Cavour.

If this proved to be true, and the Sultan unable to keep order in Eastern Roumelia and the other provinces still under his dominion, Austria and Russia might be again drawn into an Oriental complication, which all Europe would regret.

So deplorable a prospect rendered it desirable, in his opinion, to strengthen the Sultan in the eyes of his subjects and in the face of Europe, to enable him to hold his own against a Greco-Slav League, by moral support and demonstrative friendship on the part of the peace-loving Powers of Europe.

Prince Bismarck, though evidently suffering from physical pain and mental weariness from ill-health and over-work, detained me over an hour in varied conversation, and was most cordial in his assurances of friendship for England and for Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 62.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 64.) *Scutari, May 5, 1883.*

My Lord,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 19 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, with the exception of the recent attack by Montenegrins on the Castrati tribe, and for which attack the aggressors have been punished by Prince Nicholas, no incursions have been made by Montenegrin shepherds on Albanian territory.

So far from there being any other ground for the complaint of Abdi Pasha to the Porte, I now learn that Mustafa Assym Pasha has engaged to pay, without further delay, to the Montenegrin Government, on behalf of the Scutari authorities, a considerable indemnity for 600 or 700 sheep which had been carried off some months ago by the Hotti and Gruda tribes from the Montenegrin village of Goluborči.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 63.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 66. Most Confidential.) *Cettinjé, May 7, 1883.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 59, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, I had the honour to express to your Lordship a suspicion that Prince Nicholas may have tempted Mustafa Assym Pasha to discuss the question of an understanding between Turkey and Montenegro in the event of complications arising with Austria.

Since my arrival in Cettinjé from Scutari I have ascertained, in a most confidential manner, that my suspicions have not been quite groundless, though, it appears, instead of Prince Nicholas having initiated the negotiations, it is the Sultan who has made the first move.

The meeting with the Prince at Rieka on the 17th April was solicited by Mustafa Assym Pasha and the two aides-de-camp of the Sultan, in order that they might communicate to His Highness their Imperial master's earnest request that a secret and intimate intercourse should be established between His Majesty and Prince Nicholas.

Mustafa Assym Pasha was authorized to inform the Prince that the Sultan did not confide to the Porte the negotiation of important matters, and that he preferred treating them directly with those most interested in them. His Majesty therefore urged that Prince Nicholas should secretly send at once to Constantinople a person who enjoyed his utmost confidence, and who would be allowed to have constant access at the Imperial Palace. The Sultan further had confided to his Special Commissioners a set of cyphers to be given to the Prince, and through which His Highness could communicate direct with His Majesty.

Mustafa Assym Pasha explained in this manner the advantage of these cyphers:—

"Prince Nicholas' mouth would command the wire which led direct to the Sultan's ear. Neither the Porte nor anybody else would have the possibility of knowing what was passing between the two Rulers."

In continuation of the understanding which was to be established in this manner, the Sultan warmly prayed the Prince to pay him a visit, either on his way to the coronation at Moscow or on his return therefrom. His Majesty promised that the reception of the Prince would be such as to mark clearly the value attached by him, the Sultan, to His Highness' friendship.

I am assured that Prince Nicholas replied in the following manner:—

"The friendly intercourse which already existed between the Montenegrin Government and the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, together with that which had arisen between His Highness and Mustafa Assym Pasha, should be a sufficient guarantee to the Sultan of the value attached by Montenegro to amicable relations with Turkey."

There was no need of sending a secret Agent to Constantinople, as Voïvoda Radonich still held the appointment of Montenegrin Minister-Plenipotentiary at the

Porte, and would probably return to the Turkish capital as soon as matters of import had to be arranged between the two Governments.

As for the visit of His Highness to the Sultan it was an event towards which he, Prince Nicholas, had ever looked forward with ardent desire. His Highness, however, wished that it should realize all his hopes, and he could not and would not risk a disappointment by undertaking it before all the small pending frontier and other questions between the two countries had received a final and satisfactory solution. It would be excessively painful for the Prince to come before the Sultan with anything approaching a complaint.

That this has been the manner in which Mustafa Assym Pasha has been answered I do not doubt.

Prince Nicholas and his advisers are too alive to the danger to which they would expose the Principality if they fell in with the present humour of the Sultan. I am, however, not quite certain that the temptation has not been given way to of not closing entirely the door to the Turkish proposals, in order that it may be found out whether they may not be hereafter used against their projectors.

I am led to suspect this, as I have ascertained that negotiations have not been entirely broken off with Mustafa Assym Pasha, and that a secret cypher is used by the Montenegrin Government in these negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 64.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

E
(No. 67. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, May 8, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have learnt from a trustworthy source that, although Prince Nicholas had stipulated that the question of the delimitation of the Albano-Montenegrin frontier on the Podgoritza Plain should not be mentioned at the meeting which was to take place between His Highness and Mustafa Assym Pasha and the Sultan's Aides-de-camp at Ricka, still the matter did come under their consideration.

Whilst Mustafa Assym Pasha admitted Prince Nicholas' right to leave the demarkation entirely to the Boundary Commission, his Excellency, nevertheless, expressed the hope that His Highness would not object to be put in possession, at a given moment, by the Turkish military authorities, of the frontier defined in the Protocol of the 10th January last.

The Prince acknowledged his readiness to meet Mustafa Assym Pasha's wishes, and when, some days later, the Special Commissioner made a representation to the effect that he could not state the precise time when the transfer of territory in question could be effected, His Highness explained that he had never intended to limit that time, and that Mustafa Assym Pasha might rest assured that no difficulties would be thrown in his way by the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 65.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 14, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Hafiz Pasha, formerly Minister of Police at Constantinople, and otherwise known to the public in connection with his proceedings in Bulgaria, Bosnia, and elsewhere, arrived in Scutari the day before yesterday to take command of the troops in this province.

Hafiz Pasha was brought to San Giovanni di Medua in a Turkish transport, which had also on board a battalion of infantry, embarked at Crete, and a large quantity of ammunition and other military stores.

It is stated that more troops are expected here, both by land and sea. The

North Albanian mountaineers, however, have, as yet, made no sign of submission; the fruits of Abdi Pasha's misrule are, therefore, daily ripening.

If Mustafa Assym Pasha does not act with the greatest circumspection, a province which is now only in a state of insubordination will be shortly driven into open rebellion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 66.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

E
(No. 53. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 17, 1883.*

THE motives that induced Prince Alexander of Bulgaria to undertake a journey to Greece have led to many conjectures in the political world of this capital.

It was reported that His Highness was anxious to obtain the good offices of the Greek Government in adjusting the misunderstanding which has existed for some years past between the Bulgarian Exarch and the Greek Patriarchate at Constantinople; but the main object of the Prince's visit to Athens was ascribed to a wish he was believed to have entertained, of ascertaining personally from the Greek Government whether they would be prepared to join him, in conjunction with the Prince of Montenegro as a third party to the contract, in a league of the three States to be formed for mutual support with the object of thwarting (in what particular manner it is not possible to say) the aggressive designs attributed to the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the East of Europe, and more particularly the scheme that Empire is credited with of extending her frontiers in the direction of the Ægean Sea.

The Prince of Bulgaria arrived at Athens on the 3rd instant, and left for Cettinjé in Montenegro on the 5th. His Highness consequently spent only forty-eight hours in this city, many of which were occupied in an excursion he made to Tatoi, the King of Greece's country place.

During His Highness' stay in town he held one interview at the Palace with M. Tricoupi, at which His Majesty the King was present. One of the first subjects touched upon at this interview related to the dissatisfaction felt by the Greek Government at the closing in the Bulgarian Principality of the Greek schools, which were attended by persons of Greek nationality residing there, and I understand that His Highness consented that they should be reopened, and that orders to that effect have already been issued. With regard to any overture having been made by the Prince on behalf of the Head of the Bulgarian Church to the Greek Government to enlist the good offices of the Greek Patriarchate at Constantinople to remove the difficulties at present existing between the Bulgarian and Greek Churches, I am credibly informed by a very reliable source that the report of the Prince having done so is entirely without foundation.

In discussing the present position of the Kingdom of Greece and the Principality of Bulgaria, and the probable future in store for those countries, and particularly with regard to any possible change in the territorial arrangements at present existing in this portion of Europe, I have been given to understand that M. Tricoupi exercised great caution in not committing himself to any definite opinion on the subject of either the desirability or the practicability of entering into any bond of union, either for aggressive or defensive measures, between the two States.

In short, the tenour of his replies to the Prince held out no encouragement, and was of an extremely evasive character. There is no concealing the fact, that the interests of Bulgaria are diametrically opposed to those of Greece, and however much each of the two States, from their own national point of view, must dread and deprecate any further advance of Austrian influence and of Austrian legions in the direction of the Balkans and Salonica, the point should never be lost sight of that the Slavs and Greeks are natural enemies in the future development of the East of Europe, and that the former race can only grow in power and importance to the direct detriment of the latter.

I am informed that M. Tricoupi observed to Prince Alexander that no basis of alliance could ever be formed between Greece and Bulgaria without a preliminary engagement being taken by Bulgaria that she would abstain from carrying out any ambitious schemes with regard to an extension of her frontiers as defined by the

Treaty of Berlin. This observation appears to have cooled the Prince, who is believed to hanker after the Bulgaria of the Treaty of San Stefano, and to have closed his lips; nor do I anticipate that we shall hear much more at present of this much-talked-of alliance between Greece and Bulgaria.

Time alone can unfold the destinies of this country, whose aspirations are purely Hellenic, and whose policy does not consist in playing into the hands of Bulgarian Slavs, and in promoting the aims of their powerful friends.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 67.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 25.*)

E

(Confidentielle.)

Sublime Porte, le 17 Mai, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

PAR mon télégramme Circulaire du 3 de ce mois, j'avais entretenu votre Excellence des projets d'alliance offensive entre la Grèce, la Bulgarie, la Serbie, et le Monténégro.

La réponse de votre Excellence s'accorde avec celles que j'ai reçues de nos autres Ambassadeurs, pour représenter cette nouvelle comme invraisemblable et démuée de fondement. Néanmoins, un récent rapport de notre Chargé d'Affaires à Athènes tend à confirmer pleinement nos premiers renseignements.

En transmettant, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, à titre confidentiel, copie de cette communication de Tevfik Bey, je ne saurais trop faire ressortir à ses yeux l'importance des informations qui s'y trouvent contenues. C'est une question qui est trop grave par elle-même et qui nous touche de trop près pour qu'elle ne mérite pas de fixer toute notre attention.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien entretenir de nouveau de cette question M. le Principal Secrétaire d'État pour les Affaires Étrangères de la manière la plus confidentielle et de me faire connaître au plus tôt la réponse de sa Seigneurie.

Pour ce qui est de la question des décorations Bulgares dont fait également mention le rapport de Tevfik Bey, je m'en réfère à ma Circulaire en date d'aujourd'hui.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. AARIFI.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Tevfik Bey to Aarifi Pasha.

Le 9 Mai, 1883.

AINSI que je l'ai mandé à votre Altesse par mes différentes communications, le Prince de Bulgarie est parti d'ici après un séjour de deux jours seulement.

Bien que le Premier Secrétaire de la Légation se fût rendu, d'après l'ordre télégraphique de votre Altesse, à bord du bâtiment Russe qui l'a amené au Pirée, afin de saluer son Altesse au nom de cette Mission Impériale, le dit Prince n'a pas cru devoir venir me faire visite. Quant à moi, fidèle à mes instructions, je me suis abstenu, pour cause de maladie, d'assister à toutes les cérémonies publiques qui ont eu lieu ici en son honneur. Le Prince Alexandre s'est contenté d'aller voir le Marquis de Curtopassi, Ministre d'Italie et Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, et cependant, tous les Chefs de Mission, moi excepté, s'étaient inscrits chez lui aussitôt son arrivée. Cette conduite a vivement mécontenté tous mes collègues, qui y ont vu un manque d'égards envers eux de la part du Prince.

Par mes télégrammes y relatifs votre Altesse a appris que le Prince de Bulgarie s'est cru autorisé à conférer son Ordre de St. Alexandre tant au Roi Georges qu'à presque tous ses Ministres, ainsi qu'à plusieurs fonctionnaires Hellènes. Le Roi s'est vu obligé, à ce qu'on m'a assuré, d'accepter cette décoration par pure courtoisie, et pour ne pas froisser un Prince pendant qu'il était son hôte. Mais le fait en lui-même a été trouvé ridicule par tout le monde, à commencer par le Roi. Cela n'a pourtant pas empêché, Sa Majesté Hellénique de porter cet Ordre non reconnu au "Te Deum" chanté solennellement à la Cathédrale d'Athènes le jour de sa fête onomastique, et auquel le Prince de Bulgarie a assisté avant de s'embarquer.

Informé que dans la soirée de Vendredi M. Tricoupi a été invité précipitamment à prendre le thé avec le Roi Georges et le Prince de Bulgarie au Palais d'Athènes, où ils se sont enfermés, pendant plus d'une heure, à eux trois, dans une chambre, j'ai interpellé sur cette rumeur M. Tricoupi, qui s'est borné à démentir la chose purement et simplement, en ajoutant seulement que les questions que la Grèce avait à traiter avec la Bulgarie concernaient exclusivement les écoles et les églises Grecques dans cette Principauté, et que durant le séjour ici du Prince on n'avait nullement parlé politique.

Néanmoins, un de mes collègues m'a avoué, à titre très confidentiel, que le Roi Georges et M. Tricoupi avaient été sondés par le Prince sur le projet d'une alliance entre la Grèce, la Bulgarie, le Monténégro, et la Serbie, et que le Cabinet d'Athènes aurait répondu à ces ouvertures que cette alliance ne pourrait être acceptée par les Hellènes, que dans le cas où la Bulgarie n'aspirerait plus à se donner les frontières du Traité de San Stéfano et à s'étendre en deçà des Balkans. Tel a été le langage tenu par M. Tricoupi aux Chefs de Mission à Athènes qui l'ont questionné sur ce bruit. Le Premier Ministre Hellène aurait ajouté que cette alliance, d'ailleurs, n'aurait été aucunement dirigée contre la Turquie; mais qu'elle aurait eu pour but de prévenir l'invasion éventuelle de la Puissance dont l'ambition secrète consiste à s'étendre dans la presqu'île des Balkans au détriment de l'indépendance et de l'avenir politique des divers petits États Slaves qui y ont été nouvellement créés.

Il m'a été aussi affirmé, sous le sceau du secret, que le Secrétaire de l'Agence Diplomatique de Grèce en Monténégro, qui se trouvait dernièrement en congé à Athènes, et qui en était reparti pour son poste, avait reçu l'ordre de revenir ici où il est déjà arrivé. Dans quelques jours il quittera cette capitale pour Cettinjé porteur de dépêches du Gouvernement Hellénique qui se rapportent au projet d'alliance ci-dessus exposé. Ce renseignement paraît d'autant plus exact que le Prince de Bulgarie, en partant d'ici, s'est rendu directement au Monténégro.

En terminant, je dois annoncer à votre Altesse que M. Contostavlos, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Sa Majesté Hellénique, que j'ai vu ce matin, et que j'ai également interpellé sur ce qui précède, m'a déclaré, tout en opposant un démenti à ces rumeurs, que la Grèce souhaiterait avant tout l'alliance avec la Turquie comme étant la plus conforme à ses intérêts; mais que, si la Sublime Porte persistait à dédaigner l'accord complet avec la Grèce sur une marche politique à suivre pour combattre des ennemis communs, force lui serait de rechercher n'importe quelle autre alliance, afin de ne point se trouver isolée dans un avenir prochain qui lui semble plein de dangers pour elle.

J'ai, &c.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 28.*)

E

(No. 157. Confidential.)

Vienna, May 22, 1883.

My Lord,

THE Prince of Montenegro passed some days at Vienna on his way to attend the Coronation of the Emperor of Russia at Moscow, and Count Kálnoky had with him several conversations which led him to believe that His Highness perceives the necessity of cultivating good relations with Austria, and of not relying too exclusively on the support of Russia.

The fact of the present Czar being less liberal than the late Emperor in supplying the Prince with money may perhaps, his Excellency says, have had some effect in making him look less towards Russia, but he believes the Prince likewise to perceive that the geographical position of the Principality forces him to trust to the neighbouring Empire for the means of developing the resources and civilization of his country.

If roads have to be made through the mountains the engineers capable of constructing them can be got more readily from Austria than elsewhere.

If schools are to be founded, the masters must almost inevitably be got in Austria, and if commerce is to be encouraged it must also be done through Austria, and the Prince sees the necessity for all these things.

Count Kálnoky endeavoured to persuade the Prince that it was unadvisable to continue to keep alive the belligerent spirit of the people by maintaining them in a

constant state of warlike preparation; for as the independence of the Principality had been recognized, and Austria would not permit any attack upon it by Turkey, the object should now be to raise it in the scale of civilization by inducing the people to devote themselves to peaceful and industrial pursuits instead of to forays and incursions upon their neighbours.

With regard to the question of the Albanian frontier, Count Kálnoky represented that it must be settled between the Montenegrin and Turkish Governments; the extent and importance of the territory in dispute were insignificant, and did not afford matter for European interference; and his Excellency also reminded the Prince that at the Congress of Berlin a proposal by the Russian Plenipotentiary, that the execution of the Treaty should be guaranteed or taken charge of by the Signatory Powers, had been altogether rejected.

The Powers had been willing to facilitate a settlement of the frontier by Turkey and Montenegro by appointing Commissioners to mark out the line determined by the Treaty, but they had not assumed the responsibility of seeing it adopted, and till some understanding was come to between the two Governments, Austria would be little disposed to send Commissioners to complete the work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 69.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 22, 1883.*

THE serious nature of the reports received by the Turkish authorities as to the attitude of the Roman Catholic mountaineers has obliged them, within the last three days, to abandon all the measures which they had intended carrying out with reference to those clansmen.

I am assured that if Mustafa Assym Pasha had persisted in requiring the payment of the cattle and sheep taxes from the mountaineers, who at this season have to pass with their flocks through Scutari on their way from the winter pastures on the coast to the mountains, or had continued the preparations to advance his troops in the direction of the mountains, both Scutari and Tousi would have been attacked by the whole strength of the clansmen.

These attacks were fixed for either to-day or to-morrow, and the 3,500 regular troops at the disposal of the Turkish authorities would have with difficulty been able to repel a force of upwards of 10,000 well-armed mountaineers.

An announcement was consequently hurriedly sent the day before yesterday to the tribes that they might freely pass through Scutari with their flocks, and a letter was further addressed to them by Mustafa Assym Pasha, promising, in the Sultan's name, a due observance of all their ancient privileges.

There has as yet been no time to judge of the effect of these concessions, but, if the mountaineers are not being secretly pushed on to rebel at all hazards, as is firmly believed to be the case by the Turkish authorities, the Chiefs will probably come and pay homage to the new Governor-General, and receive the usual presents at the hands of Mustafa Assym Pasha.

But the mountaineers will not fail to comprehend the full value of the victory they will have thus gained over their Ottoman governors. They will, therefore, for the future employ without stint their power to oppose the slightest attempt at a cession of any of their territory to Montenegro, and, at the same time, daily lessen the hold and control of the Turkish Government over their districts and tribal organization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 70.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 22, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Abdi Pasha, late Governor-General and Commander-in-chief of this province, has been permitted to leave Scutari to-day for Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 71.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, June 1.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 24 Mai,* 1883.

MON Département s'est déjà trouvé plus d'une fois dans le cas d'entretenir votre Excellence de l'exécution de l'Article XI du Traité de Berlin ayant trait à la démolition des forteresses du Danube.

Malgré les démarches itératives faites à ce sujet par les Représentants de la Sublime Porte, et les assurances qu'ils ont obtenues, cette question continue toujours à rester en suspens. Il est temps cependant que l'Article dont il s'agit reçoive son exécution.

Je vous prie, par conséquent, de renouveler vos démarches d'une manière pressante auprès de son Excellence M. le Principal Secrétaire d'État pour les Affaires Étrangères, en vue de l'amener à faire parvenir à Sophia des représentations énergiques propres à assurer sans plus de retard la stricte exécution de la stipulation dont il s'agit.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFI.

No. 72.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 2,* 1883.

ALBANIAN mountaineers having cut off communications between garrisons on frontier in the Podgoritza Plain and Scutari, Hafiz Pasha left this morning with considerable force to relieve those garrisons.

A deputation of two Mussulman and two Christian natives of Scutari has preceded the Pasha to endeavour to induce mountaineers to allow his peaceable passage through their districts.

(Sent to Mr. Wyndham.)

No. 73.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 3, 4 P.M.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 3,* 1883, 11 A.M.

FIGHTING commenced yesterday afternoon between the Turkish troops and mountaineers in the district of Castrati.

(Sent to Mr. Wyndham.)

No. 74.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 4, 7·50 P.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 4, 1883, 4 P.M.

FIGHTING still going on, and troops apparently checked, as they have not yet reached Tousi.

Forty wounded soldiers brought back here.

Excitement and uncertainty prevalent in Scutari.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 75.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 5.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May* 24, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Rev. Don Primo, the Mirdite Roman Catholic Priest, who took so prominent a part, together with Prenk Bib Doda, in raising the standard of revolt in Mirdicia in 1877, has now arrived at Antivari, where he has been appointed parish priest by the Propaganda at Rome.

Don Primo, when a prisoner at Constantinople, and under capital sentence, was pardoned by the Porte on the formal engagement of the Roman Catholic Ecclesiastical authorities that he should leave the country, and never return to the Ottoman dominions without the permission of the Turkish Government.

The Propaganda, to insure the fulfilment of this engagement, sent the Reverend Father to Newfoundland, and it is only within the last few months that efforts have been made to obtain the Porte's permission for his return to North Albania.

The complete failure of these attempts has apparently led the Propaganda to see its way to sanctioning the present appointment of Don Primo to Antivari, where, although not actually on Ottoman territory, his proximity to his native mountains will, rightly or wrongly, be a continual source of anxiety to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 76.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May* 28, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have to-day addressed a telegram to Mr. Wyndham in the following sense:—

Matters between the Roman Catholic clansmen and Mustafa Assym Pasha have now arrived at a point which apparently leaves no other course open to the Turkish Government but that of coercion.

The withdrawal of the demands advanced by Mustafa Assym Pasha on his arrival here, and the assurance that the privileges and customs of the tribes were still to be faithfully observed by the Ottoman authorities, have failed to induce the mountain Chiefs to come and pay the accustomed homage to the new Governor-General.

This attitude is maintained on the plea that the tribes know that they will be asked to submit to the cession to Montenegro of the frontier-line described in the Cettinjé Protocol of the 10th January last. Having no intention to permit this cession, the clansmen assert they have elected to abide by the consequences of their determination in their own mountains.

A further proposal to the Chiefs from Mustafa Assym Pasha, that they should come to Scutari, on the distinct understanding that the matter of the cession to Montenegro should not be discussed between them and his Excellency, has also been rejected; it is, therefore, not impossible that, after all, the mountaineers may be only availing themselves of the frontier question to cover their intention of divesting themselves of Ottoman subjection.

Should, however, the alleged cause be really the only one for the defiant attitude

of the tribes, I consider it would be but fair towards the Turkish Government to enable it to avoid the dangers which are ever present for it even in the most insignificant struggle with a rayah population.

When once it has been positively ascertained that the clansmen are covering no ulterior objects under their resistance to cessions to Montenegro, I think Prince Nicholas might be invited to content himself, for the time being, with a formal delivery on paper of the territory in question, and with a further engagement from the Porte that His Highness would be cordially supported in obtaining a complete control over that territory whenever circumstances were favourable for his so doing.

Mustafa Pasha is, in the meantime, making military preparations for the dispatch of an expedition against the mountaineers. I am not of his Excellency's opinion, that the force of 4,000 or 5,000 regular troops in this province will be sufficient to get the better of the clansmen. But, should it be so, is it not likely that the Austro-Hungarian Government would intervene, at all events by representations at the Porte, to stop its progress? The influence which Austria has up to this day claimed the right to exercise in favour of the Roman Catholics of North Albania would be lost if the Imperial and Royal Government failed to act at such a crisis.

Mustafa Assym Pasha has assured me that he will continue to proceed with the greatest circumspection, as he is fully alive to the serious nature of the task before him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 77.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May* 28, 1883.

THE telegram to Mr. Wyndham, the substance of which I have had the honour of placing before your Lordship in my preceding despatch No. 80 of to-day's date, was based on information given me yesterday by Mustafa Assym Pasha.

I did not think it necessary to hide from his Excellency that my long experience of affairs here made me take a most serious view of the present state of things, and prevented me from accepting at once, as conclusive, the statement that the whole matter depended upon the transfer of an insignificant strip of territory to Montenegro.

I told Mustafa Assym Pasha that it was his duty to be certain on this point before taking action on it. If it should prove a fact, even then his Excellency would be justified in pausing, for I could hardly think it possible that it would be safe for the Turkish Government to engage in military operations against the Christian population of a province so near to Central Europe as North Albania before submitting to the friendly Powers for their appreciation, the necessity in which it had been placed by its engagements to Montenegro.

Should, however, as his Excellency seemed himself half to suspect, the resistance of the mountaineers be due to other causes, for instance, the instigations of secret agents of some foreign Power, caution would then be doubly obligatory on the Turkish Government, for the "mandat" which his Excellency considered was confided to the Porte through the Treaty of Berlin would evidently be found to be non-existent.

I also pointed out to Mustafa Assym Pasha the extreme danger of commencing operations against the mountaineers with the present small force at his disposal: 10,600 men and two batteries and a-half of mountain artillery had been found necessary in 1877 to effect an entry into Mirdicia, at a time when the Mirdites were armed only with flint-lock muskets. The clans of the great mountains number upwards of 10,000 fighting men, all in possession of either Martini-Peabody or Snider rifles; therefore I could hardly believe that a force which could barely muster 3,000 men in the field would be capable of overcoming twice its numbers of courageous mountaineers posted in almost impregnable rocky fastnesses.

Whilst admitting that the Turkish Government ought not and could not allow for an indefinite time a fraction of its subjects to remain in a state of insubordination, still I thought, in view of the alleged fact that the Sultan had no intention of depriving the mountaineers of the privileges and immunities always accorded to them, that, after an imposing force had been collected in Scutari, and when a means had been

found of smoothing away the frontier difficulty, a satisfactory understanding might be easily arranged with the Chiefs and their tribes.

I must, nevertheless, admit to your Lordship that I came away from Mustafa Assym Pasha with the impression that I had not gained his confidence, and that the Turkish Government, under cover of executing the will of the Great Powers, intends to take the opportunity to bring the tribes entirely under its subjection. It evidently fears that an undue development may be given to the privileges hitherto enjoyed by the mountaineers, and that they, the privileges, may gradually assume the form of an autonomous administration.

The suggestion in my telegram to Mr. Wyndham of a paper delimitation of the Albano-Montenegrin frontier on the Podgoritza Plain, if it can be carried out, would, therefore, not only have the advantage of leaving dormant a matter which has been used as an irritant by more than one side, but would also induce the Porte to deviate from a course which is fraught with many dangers.

To allow the Turkish Government to persist in asserting that it is acting under pressure of the European Powers for the purpose of placing the Montenegrins in possession of the frontier line of the Protocol of the 10th January last, in a hard and fast manner, would mean either a desire to permit the Turks to embroil themselves with the Roman Catholics of North Albania, or a determination that the Porte should maintain, at a ruinous cost, a very large body of troops in the Podgoritza Plain to guard the Montenegrins from Albanian attacks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 78.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 8.)
Salonica, May 28, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 20th February last, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches from the British Vice-Consul at Serres on the subject of brigandage in that district.

Tranquillity prevails in the neighbourhood of Salonica, but I hear from persons who have recently visited the interior of Macedonia that there are symptoms of a revival of brigandage in other districts besides that of Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

Serres, le 10 Mai, 1883.

M. le Consul-Général,

L'ÉTAT de la sécurité publique est pour le moment plutôt satisfaisant et l'autorité militaire a pris quelques mesures pour le maintenir.

En attendant, il est vrai que des brigands existent dans le pays, et dernièrement une petite bande de cinq personnes s'est présentée à Camaroto, située sur la plaine et près de Demir-Hissar; aussi à Petritz, il y a quelques jours, ont été arrêtés deux autres brigands, lesquels furent conduits ici.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

Serres, le 26 Mai, 1883.

M. le Consul-Général,

EN vous confirmant mon dernier rapport expédié par la poste de la semaine passée, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre par ceci les nouvelles suivantes relativement au brigandage.

Deux bandes des brigands venant de la Bulgarie ont passé dernièrement frontière. L'une a été repoussée tout à fait près de la frontière après avoir subie une perte de trois brigands et infligée la perte d'un soldat au détachement militaire qui l'a attaquée.

L'autre bande, qu'on supposait dirigée vers Cossova, a fait son apparition dans le district de Nevrocop. Elle est conduite par le Chef Zembil et forte, comme on dit, de trente à quarante hommes.

Cette bande a été aussi attaquée d'abord à Paril-Tépé le 22 de ce mois, et après à Ali-Botuch le 23. Dans la première attaque c'est la bande qui a eu quatre morts; dans la seconde, elle a tuée un soldat. La poursuite continue.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

No. 79.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8, 4·41 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, June 8, 1883, 4·20 P.M.

THE fighting of Saturday and Sunday last, both at Castrati and Tousi, was so serious, and the losses so considerable, that the Turkish troops have come to a standstill.

If reinforcements are not sent, or the Turkish Government does not reconsider its present action, mountaineers will probably continue their resistance, and the loss of life will be great.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 80.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 42.)
Sophia, May 28, 1883.

My Lord,

IN addition to the commercial questions discussed at the meeting of Agents and Consuls-General which formed the subject of my despatch No. 25, Commercial, of the 22nd instant, two other questions of interest to foreigners in Bulgaria were also brought forward. The first of these was the attempt on the part of the Bulgarian Government to obtain a declaration from any foreigner establishing himself for business purposes in Bulgaria to the effect that he should submit to the jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Courts, and should not claim the official assistance of his Consular authority, in matters connected with his business. In a Law which has been recently promulgated with regard to adjudications it is laid down that no concession should be granted to a foreigner unless he makes such a declaration in his contract, and has it registered at the Consulate upon which he depends.

It was pointed out that, if this condition were insisted upon, it would have the effect of preventing any concession being granted to a foreigner, as it would not be competent for the Agents to register a document which contained clauses contrary to the Capitulations which are still in force in Bulgaria.

In my despatch No. 30, Confidential, of the 2nd instant I had the honour to report the action taken by the French Agent and Consul-General with regard to this matter.

The other question which was raised referred to the religious intolerance which was being displayed in Bulgaria. M. Schefer, the French Agent, stated that a demand had recently been addressed by an Inspector of Schools to the Director of the Roman Catholic school in Sophia to provide and pay an Orthodox priest to give religious instruction to the Bulgarian children who attended the school. He had consequently addressed a note to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he pointed out that, as the school was under French protection, the communication ought to have passed through him. No reply having been received from M. Zancoff, and a further demand having been addressed directly to the Director of the school, M. Schefer wrote a further note to M. Zancoff, in very strong terms, to inform him that he had felt it his duty to refer the matter to his Government.

My Austrian colleague has informed me that he has addressed a Report to his

Government, calling attention to the gravity which the question of religious intolerance is now assuming in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 81.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

E
(No. 357. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 4, 1883.*

RUMOURS have been current that Turkey was about to enter the Triple Alliance; but from inquiries which I have made, I do not think the Porte has taken any steps with that object. The Palace may perhaps have sounded the German Government on the subject, but the Palace party appears at the present moment to have a leaning towards Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 82.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

E
(No. 359. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 5, 1883.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 162 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I have been endeavouring to obtain some information as to why the Turkish Government were under the impression that an offensive alliance against Turkey had been concluded between Greece, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro.

It appears, from what I have been able to learn, that the Military Commandant of the Vilayet of Cossova first brought the report to the notice of the Imperial Government, and that later the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Athens aroused their suspicions by informing them of frequent interviews between the Prince of Bulgaria, the King of the Hellenes, and His Majesty's Prime Minister, M. Tricoupi, at which, I am informed very confidentially by Aarifi Pasha, Tewfik Bey states, on what he considers to be good authority, that secret *pourparlers* for the alliance in question took place; and that, having questioned M. Tricoupi on the subject, he was told in reply that Greece was no party to the alliance, which, in the first place, did not exist; and that, secondly, at all events it would never be directed against Turkey, but entirely against the Power which aimed at the annihilation of minor States such as Servia, Montenegro, Greece, &c.; and that M. Tricoupi then went on to say that, if Greece continued to meet with no encouragement for an alliance with Turkey, she would necessarily have to turn her attention to other quarters with a view to bringing about such a combination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 83.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 170.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 8, 1883.*

COUNT KÁLNOKY has received information similar to that telegraphed by your Lordship by Mr. Kirby Green of the resistance offered by the Castrati tribe to the passage of a detachment of Turkish troops.

His Excellency, however, appears to attach but little importance to the exhibition of unruliness in which the Albanian mountaineers are in the habit of indulging.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 84.

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 583 A.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 12, 1883.*

THE French Ambassador spoke to me this afternoon of the religious intolerance shown by the Bulgarian authorities, and said that he had been instructed by his Government to call my attention to the matter.

I told his Excellency that I had received a Report from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia on the subject, and that I should be happy to join with the French Government in taking steps to remedy the state of affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 85.

E *Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.*
(No. 210.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 12, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 162 of the 4th ultimo, I inclose copy of a further communication made to me by the Turkish Ambassador on the 25th ultimo,* from which you will perceive that Aarifi Pasha returns to the subject of the reported alliance between Greece, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro, respecting which information has reached him from the Turkish Minister at Athens.

I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of informing the Porte that no intelligence has reached Her Majesty's Government leading them to believe that such an alliance has been concluded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 86.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)*
(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 30, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, owing to the refusal of the mountain Chiefs to hold any further intercourse with the Turkish authorities, and also, perhaps, to a raid having been carried out three days ago by some mountaineers on the Podgoritza Plain, when a Montenegrin was killed, Mustafa Assym and Hafiz Pashas have been busily engaged all to-day in preparing the troops for immediate active operations against the clansmen.

The evident coolness and distrust with which my advice on the present critical state of affairs has been met has obliged me to abstain from once again urging upon the Pashas the need of prudence in their action towards the North Albanian Roman Catholic tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 87.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)*
(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 31, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the following is the substance of a telegram sent this day by me to Mr. Wyndham in connection with the telegram the tenour of which was communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 80 of the 28th instant:—

I learn that immediate active military measures are to be taken against the Albanian clansmen.

* No. 67.

I much fear that both the Turkish authorities and the mountaineers are only using the frontier question as a stalking-horse for the advancement of other views.

The North Albanian clansmen have evidently nascent ideas of obtaining the recognition of their autonomy, whilst the Porte believes that it can nip these ideas in the bud, without interference from abroad, by vigorous military action undertaken on the plea of holding a mandate from the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 88.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

E (No. 85.)

Scutari, June 2, 1883.

My Lord,

THOUGH the military preparations which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 82 of the 30th ultimo were completed during the night of that day, yet the troops made no move until this morning.

A battalion of infantry arrived in Scutari from Lower Albania on the 31st and perhaps it was to permit it to have a day's rest that the advance was postponed.

In the meantime, the mountaineers cut the telegraph wires between this and the frontier forts of Shepshanik, Tousi, and Helm, and took possession of a barge laden with flour sent from Scutari by the lake for the use of the garrisons of the above-named forts.

Since then vague reports of the disarmament or capture of those garrisons by the clansmen have kept the authorities and inhabitants of Scutari in a great state of excitement. This has necessarily been heightened by the hurried departure early this morning, in the direction of the Podgoritza Plain, of the force which had been held in readiness for the last few days.

Before these troops started, Mustafa Assym Pasha required that the inhabitants of Scutari should send with them four persons, two Mussulmans and two Christians, who were known to have friends among the mountaineers, in order that they might be used as intermediaries in communicating between the tribesmen and Hafiz Pasha, the Commander of the expeditionary force.

As the Pasha stated he only wished to re-establish his communications with the frontier garrisons and revictual them, the deputation of four Scutarines suggested and obtained that they should precede the troops in order to explain the object of their march to the clansman, and thus secure, perhaps, their free passage through the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 89.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

E (No. 86.)

Scutari, June 5, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 85 of the 2nd instant, that the mountaineers refused to receive the four Scutarines who had been sent that morning in advance of the Turkish troops, as two of them were Mahommedans, and that before the deputation could effect its return to Hafiz Pasha's head-quarters the troops were attacked by the clansmen from a wood a little beyond the village of Koplik.

The Turks, after meeting with stubborn resistance from noon to 9 o'clock in the evening, gained the banks of the stream marked on the Austrian Staff Map as the River Proafar, and thence secured their communications with the lake.

There was severe fighting also throughout Sunday, when the troops took by assault a farm-house belonging to the Bairacktar, or Standard-bearer, of the Castrati tribe.

On Monday morning, when the Turks attempted to mount the spurs of the hills which intervene between the Castrati district and Tousi, Hafiz Pasha evidently felt

that the position should be turned rather than faced, and he has, therefore, since been engaged in fortifying the ground now occupied by him, and obtaining the few reinforcements which can be sent to him from this.

It is, perhaps, necessary that I should here state that the above information is a careful selection of what I have been able to gather from the accounts circulated by Turkish officials, native Mahommedans, or Albanian Christians.

All sides agree in stating that the losses have been severe for both Turks and mountaineers. The former are rumoured to have a casualty list of upwards of 300, whilst the latter are said to admit that their killed alone exceed 100.

More than fifty wounded Turkish soldiers have already been received in the Scutari hospital.

Whilst operations are thus proceeding for the relief of the frontier forts—no trustworthy news yet exists as to the state of the garrisons of these forts—the tribes of Scialla and Sciossi have appeared on the heights overlooking Drist (Drivasto), threatening to advance on Scutari.

The clan of Posripa, which is intimately connected with the town of Scutari, has undertaken to bar the passage of the Scialla and Sciossi, but the only assistance which the authorities have been able to give the Posripa people has been in the shape of arms and ammunition.

Scutari itself would be in a critical position should the Mirdites and the other adjoining Christian tribes take up the quarrel of the great mountain clans. Only two battalions of infantry, one battery of field artillery, and a battery and a-half of mountain guns remain in the town, together with a garrison of about 200 artillerymen in the Scutari Acropolis.

A good deal of loot in the shape of agricultural produce has been sent into Scutari from the Turkish camp, being evidently the yield of the farms on the lowlands occupied by the troops on Sunday.

The events which are now occurring here have been so fully foreshadowed in my reports for many months past that I will not venture to trouble your Lordship with a repetition of the causes which have brought them about. The cause, however, which is most evident just now is the alarm which has taken hold of the Turkish authorities that the mountaineers are making an effort to secure their autonomy. Every risk is to be run rather than that self-government, even in the smallest and mildest form, should be successfully established.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 90.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15, 9 A.M.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, June 14, 1883, 10·45 P.M.

I HAVE received this evening a document dated Castrati, 9th June, and entitled, "An Appeal to the Representatives of Powers residing in Scutari." It purports to be signed by the Chiefs of Great Mountains, and of all the other clans of the Province of Scutari. After protesting that they have been constantly faithful to the Sultan, and have never wished to revolt, they proceed to explain that they have been driven to their resistance through the oppression of the local authority, and the attempt to deprive them of their land rights and immunities. They appeal for help and moral support from the Powers, and declare that they prefer extermination to losing their traditional rights and suffering the consequences of oppression.

I shall abstain from expressing an opinion on the above until I receive instructions from your Lordship. A time is perhaps at hand when useless bloodshed might be avoided by bringing about an understanding between the Turkish Government and the mountaineers.

(Sent to Mr. Wyndham.)

No. 91.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1883.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the request contained in the despatch from Aarifi Pasha, of which your Excellency left me a copy on the 1st instant, that energetic representations should be made to the Bulgarian Government to carry out the stipulations of the XIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the demolition of the Bulgarian fortresses. I have the honour to state to your Excellency that, if the Porte will obtain the concurrence of the other Signatory Powers to this proposal, Her Majesty's Government will be ready to join in a representation on this subject at Sophia, but they are not of opinion that individual remonstrances would be likely to produce a satisfactory result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 92.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 15, 1883, 3 P.M.*

I LEARN that the Mirdites are preparing to mark their adhesion to the great mountaineer movement.

No. 93.

E *Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 18.)*

(No. 365.) *Therapia, June 12, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of an interesting despatch from Mr. Consul-General Jones on the subject of the recent elections in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Wyndham.

Philippopoli, May 26, 1883.

Sir,

I BEG leave to inform you of the following changes recently made here in the composition of the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Statute, which require the renewal every second year of half the number of Delegates.

In addition to these—numbering eighteen—half of the Members directly appointed by the Governor-General—five—are likewise to be renewed at the same time.

Of the first category, four of those just elected are credited with Russian proclivities, the remaining fourteen belonging, it is said, to the National party. Few of them, however, appear to be known beyond the limits of their respective districts, where their steady attachment to the Governor-General and the party in power has been their chief distinction hitherto.

The success of the Nationalist candidates on this occasion is mainly due to the support they received from the district school-teachers, who have, as a body, identified themselves with their cause, and rendered most efficient aid to the National party in the province, where they enjoy more consideration and possess greater influence than the priesthood, the steadfast allies of the Muscovite party.

Another cause, contributing to the same result, was the general change in March last of the municipal bodies throughout the province, and the transfer to other posts of those district officials suspected of using their local authority to influence the choice of the constituencies.

In the case of the Governor's five nominees, he has apparently selected them altogether from among his personal friends and sympathizers, and exclusively from the Bulgarian community, although the numerical proportions of the Turks and Greeks would fairly entitle them to one representative each on this occasion.

Aleko's choice has been severely censured by the local press, especially because his nominees belong, with one exception only, to the official class—salaried functionaries, chiefly of the judicial branch, and already too numerous in the Provincial Assembly, with the result that the administration of justice is impeded and arrested by their enforced absence from the sphere of their professional duties.

Should the general result of the late elections be judicially confirmed, Aleko's position in the province will be considerably strengthened, and, about the time his term of office expires, he will find himself with an Assembly composed mainly of his friends and sympathizers, whose desire for the prolongation of his authority those occupied in choosing his successor may be inclined to take into favourable consideration, and, hardly of less importance in his eyes, may show greater liberality than their predecessors in dealing with his repeated request for an increase of salary and allowances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 94.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 18, 1883, 4·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 16 of 14th.

Can you suggest any means of bringing about an understanding between the Turkish Government and the mountaineers consistent with the engagements of Turkey to Montenegro?

No. 95.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 18, 1883.*

THE Prince [?] informs me that yesterday he telegraphed to Constantinople to announce that the resistance of the mountaineers has been overcome, and that there will be no more fighting. This has been serious during last few days, and [other] accounts do not confirm his hopeful statement.

(Sent to Mr. Wyndham.)

No. 96.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 19, 1883, 3·53 P.M.*

CANNOT speak with certainty as to present disposition of the mountaineers without applying for information in certain available quarters, and do not think that it would be well for me to make such inquiries unless there is a prospect of favourable consideration by the Turkish Government of the position of the mountaineers. The Vali's unsolicited announcement to me yesterday, I fear, was intended to check foreign advice or intervention.

Fighting continues, notwithstanding Pasha's statement to the contrary, and the resolution and savagery of the mountaineers are augmenting.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 97.

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.

E
(No. 616.)

Foreign Office, June 20, 1883.

My Lord,

COUNT D'AUNAY referred to-day in conversation to the inquiry which your Excellency has addressed to the French Government, in accordance with the instruction contained in my despatch No. 262 of the 9th March last, as to the course to be pursued with regard to the question of the vakouf lands, and other Mussulman property in Bulgaria.

He said that the French Government propose to maintain a certain reserve on these subjects, more especially as their relations with the Bulgarian Government are for the present suspended.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 98.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

E
(No. 88.)

Scutari, June 8, 1883.

My Lord,

IN support of my Report No. 86 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state to your Lordship that the expeditionary force under Hafiz Pasha remains in the district of Castrati unable to advance.

The Turkish troops have entrenched themselves on two hillocks at Alia and Kosani, and are faced by a body of clansmen on a hill just beyond the range of Hafiz Pasha's mountain guns. The main body of mountaineers is collected around the Church of Baïza, whence it can easily watch the Turks both in the Podgoritza Plain and in Castrati.

No hostilities have occurred since Monday last, when a truce was agreed upon for a day to bury the slain, and which has been prolonged up to to-day.

A fair idea of the serious nature of the resistance which has been encountered by the Turks may be formed through Mustafa Assym Pasha's admission that, in the fighting of Saturday and Sunday, four officers were killed and seven wounded, and that fifty-six wounded soldiers were sent to the hospital here.

These numbers are known to be incorrect, but as they have been given to contradict the reports of much larger estimates, they are significant of the losses that must have really been suffered.

From the garrisons on the Podgoritza frontier nothing is received but uncertain reports through Montenegro, and a few peasants who seek to profit by asserting that they have been sent as messengers.

Serious fighting, however, undoubtedly occurred both on the 2nd and 3rd at Skella Helm (not Gosic, as announced in Montenegro), when the Gruda and Hotti mountaineers attempted to seize the military store-house at that place. They were repelled on both days through the fire of the fort on the top of the Hum Hill.

A small quantity of biscuit and flour is said to have been successfully conveyed into Tousi on the 5th instant by a body of Mussulman inhabitants from the village of Vranja. Since then all attempts to send provisions from this have failed.

It is to be presumed that Hafiz Pasha is awaiting reinforcements. In the meantime, he is occupying the attention of the mountaineers by preparations for commencing the construction of a military road towards Hotti. Even with the existence of such a road the actual Turkish force would probably be unable to overcome the mountaineers, who, it is said, have now been strengthened by the arrival of the Skrelli, Scialla, Sciossi, Pulati, and many other minor tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 99.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

E
(No. 89.)

Scutari, June 8, 1883.

My Lord,

SHOULD the present state of affairs in North Albania come under discussion, it would be necessary to bear in mind that there was no absolute need for precipitating a struggle between the Turkish troops and the Roman Catholic mountaineers.

I have reason to believe that the authorities here have reported that they were obliged to order the troops to march to the relief of the Tousi and the other frontier garrisons, as they had received positive information that the mountaineers were about to attack them, and as they were deficient in provisions.

The failure of Hafiz Pasha to join the threatened garrisons, or even to throw into the forts fresh supplies, and the success of those garrisons in defending themselves, sufficiently prove the little value of the above pleas.

The Turkish Government has hitherto shown so much forbearance in dealing with the mountaineers, even when the latter have seized large quantities of ammunition and stores, that delay in punishing the authors of the recent capture of a boat load of flour could have in no manner weakened the position of the Turks in the estimation of the mountaineers. On the contrary, had delay been observed to mean a gradual and ever-increasing concentration of troops in Scutari, I am convinced the Turkish Government would have been able to secure the submission of the mountaineers without the need of marching a single soldier beyond this town, or provoking, through the use of an inadequate force, a resistance which has already resulted in the loss of so many lives.

As your Lordship is aware from my despatch No. 81 of the 28th ultimo, I was careful to submit these considerations to the attention of Mustafa Assym Pasha. I have ventured to recall the matter to your Lordship's mind in explanation of the powerless position in which I find myself to influence for good a state of things which I have seen approaching for so long a time past.

Perhaps I may also be allowed to add that, besides pointing out to Mustafa Assym Pasha the inadequacy of the military force in North Albania to operate against the mountaineers, I showed his Excellency that he might secure the victualling of the frontier garrisons through Montenegro and by private enterprise, the course always observed in times of peace when Turkey held Niesić.

Mustafa Assym Pasha, however, preferred to feel himself irresistibly pushed forward by a frontier question with Montenegro, which did not exist in an acute form; by the intrigues of Austro-Hungarian emissaries, about which satisfactory assurances had been received by the Porte; by dangers menacing garrisons perfectly capable of defending themselves; by acts of lawlessness committed by mountaineers who had hitherto been invariably pardoned for acts of a much more serious nature; and by the presumed undue development of ideas of autonomy among clans which had, *de facto*, for centuries enjoyed self-government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 100.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

E.
(No. 91. Most Confidential.)

Scutari, June 11, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that to-day a person whom I am unable to name, but whose position enables him to know the views and wishes of the mountaineers, called on me, and asked me whether there was any hope of support from Her Majesty's Government for the North Albanian Christians.

He said that the Austrian Consul-General, M. Lippich, had required the Franciscan monks, who reside among the clansmen, to let them know that on no account were they to expect assistance from the Austro-Hungarian Government, which only protected the Roman Catholic religion in North Albania, and not insurgents against the Sultan's authority.

My informant added that the mountaineers had long ago ceased to believe in Austrian Agents, and had serious thoughts of raising the English flag as a sign that

they were fighting for liberty under the ægis of the only nation which really understood what liberty meant.

I replied that, although I was without instructions from your Lordship concerning the events that were now passing in the Great Mountains, yet I felt no hesitation in saying that the clansmen ought not to expect the slightest encouragement from Her Majesty's Government. There was only one British interest in North Albania, and that was that perfect harmony should exist between the Sultan and his subjects—a state of things which could not be if the mountaineers fancied they could put pressure on the Turkish Government through foreign aid.

My visitor then inferred that the Great Powers were prepared to allow a destruction to arise which, but a few years ago, they reprobated by acts as well as words on its being attempted in Bulgaria and other Turkish provinces.

I explained that the present case was very different, for the provocation was solely on the side of the tribesmen; but that, even now, I thought it probable, when the insurgents took a right view of their position, and sought the Sultan's clemency, there would not be wanting friendly advisers to urge His Imperial Majesty towards that leniency which, I understood, he was generally prepared to exercise.

On the question arising of the wish of the mountaineers to make known to the Porte their intention to establish their autonomy, I pointed out that, because the Turkish troops had been brought to a momentary standstill, it ought not to be believed that the Ottoman power had been irretrievably vanquished. A very few days would probably suffice to make the mistake patent to all, and during these few days the clansmen would do well to address themselves direct to the Porte to be once again accepted as faithful subjects of the Sultan.

I felt sure the mere use of the word "autonomy" would wreck every attempt at conciliation, therefore the mountaineers would show tact by not employing it, and also by refraining from having recourse to this or that foreign Government.

Any amnesty or concessions accorded to them would necessarily be under the Imperial seal, and this should be a sufficient guarantee of the Porte's good faith.

I continued that I presumed the clansmen were quite prepared to abandon their pretension to oppose the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin boundaries in accordance with the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and to permit free military communications with the frontier forts, provided they could insure the observance of their ancient privileges and immunities.

Perhaps, in view of a speedy submission of the tribes, the Porte might grant them the right of preliminary approval of the Mussulmans who are appointed as Boluk Bashis or Representatives in Scutari of the tribes, and not as intermediaries between the clansmen and the authorities. This right, when closely examined, would be seen to be an important advantage, but, I felt sure, it was the utmost that could be hoped for.

I hope your Lordship will not disapprove of my having spoken in the above sense to my visitor. He had evidently been sent to me to obtain words of encouragement and sympathy for the cause of the mountaineers. Under present circumstances, such words could only lead to a prolongation of a struggle which has already cost many lives.

If the mountaineers can only maintain their privileges until the reforms promised by the Treaty of Berlin come under practical discussion, these privileges may be moulded into a self-government which may prove acceptable to all—Mussulmans as well as Christians. A continuance of the insurrection of the North Albanian Roman Catholic tribes, without extraneous support, can only end, after many incidents of blood and cruelty, in the extinction of a nucleus of a body politic which holds promise of developing into one of the most worthy of the nations of Eastern Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 101.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

E
(No. 92.)
Scutari, June 12, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Hafiz Pasha yesterday embarked half the force encamped at Castrati, consisting of four battalions and five pieces of artillery, on board a number of boats, and proceeded to a place called Graboni, beyond the Albanian mountains, where he landed, and thence marched to Tousi, without encountering any mountaineers.

Graboni is, I believe, in the vicinity of Point 19 of Major Sale's Map of the Montenegrin frontier, to the north of Lake Scutari, 1879.

This military manœuvre could have been effected direct from Scutari without the preliminary march to Castrati, and the consequent bloodshed which occurred there.

Although I am informed that the mountaineers have assembled in great force at Baïza, still it is probable the four battalions that remain in Castrati are quite capable of holding their own in the redoubts which they have thrown up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 102.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 172 A.)
Vienna, June 12, 1883.

My Lord,

THOUGH the accounts which have been published of the fighting that has taken place between the Turkish troops and some of the Albanian tribes are believed here to be much exaggerated, it is evident that the latter opposed a stubborn resistance to the advance of the Imperial forces.

Count Kálnoky considers the occurrence as the natural consequence of the incapacity of the late Governor-General, whose removal he had in vain urged upon the Turkish Government for many months, and who had allowed the authority of the Porte to be so completely lost, that it could now only be re-established by force.

According to the accounts received by Count Kálnoky the Montenegrins have remained perfectly quiet, and have taken no part in the conflict.

The Turkish Ambassador has received no information upon the state of things, but speaks, not without some bitterness, of the cruel position in which his Government is placed by having to proceed to extremities against the Sultan's own subjects for resisting an arrangement by which a portion of his dominions was to be handed over to their traditional enemies without regard for the wishes of the inhabitants or owners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 103.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

E
(No. 173.)
Vienna, June 13, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE asked Count Kálnoky whether he had sent, or intended to send, instructions to Baron Calice to concert with the other Representatives on the subject of the Rhodope villages, observing that it appeared fully time to have the matter settled, and not to be left any longer in suspense.

His Excellency admitted that it certainly ought to be settled, but he thought it one of the questions that should be left to be dealt with according to the discretion of the Representatives at Constantinople, who were best able to judge of the opportuneness of bringing it forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 104.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 178.)
Vienna, June 18, 1883.

My Lord,

NO late intelligence has been received by the Austrian Government of the state of affairs in Albania, and Count Kálnoky still hopes that the resistance to the Turkish troops may be confined to the three tribes who first opposed their progress.

In other parts of Albania, though there is an entire absence of security for the person or for property, there is stated to be no political excitement, but as long as Dervish Pasha, who is still titular Vali, is allowed to remain absent, as he has been for the last two years, no material improvement is to be expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 105.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

E
(No. 379. Confidential.) *Therapia, June* 16, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a few days ago I wrote privately to the Austrian Ambassador, and told him that I was anxious if possible to take some steps towards carrying into effect the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatches No. 79 of the 9th March last and No. 112 of the 6th April last as to the settlement of the Bulgarian tribute and the share of the Turkish debt to be borne by Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece respectively, and that I should be very glad if, as Doyen of the Ambassadors, he would convoke an informal meeting of the Representatives of the Great Powers to discuss the question. Baron Calice, who is still at the Embassy-house at Pera, replied immediately that as soon as he came to Buyukdéré, which he should do shortly, he would endeavour to meet my wishes.

I took occasion yesterday to mention the matter to M. Onou, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who asked me why I was in such a hurry; that if the money to be paid over to Turkey were really for her benefit, and would assist her to carry out reforms, he could understand the object of pressing for payment, but as it would only go into the pockets of the bondholders, he thought it very unjust upon the small States, and that he, moreover, did not see how they could be induced to pay. I replied that the payment in question had been agreed upon in the Treaty of Berlin; that it was only just and equitable towards Turkey to endeavour to carry into effect the Articles of the Treaty on the subject; and that I must do what I could to give effect to your Lordship's instructions.

Although M. Onou's arguments could be easily refuted, I think they tend to show that the matter is not one which will meet with much, if any, support from the Russian Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 106.

E *Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 385.) *Therapia, June* 16, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's despatches to your Lordship, and particularly to his No. 81 of the 28th May, copies of which he has forwarded to me, I have the honour to report that I have thought it prudent to observe a reserved attitude, and that I have confined myself to occasionally asking at the Porte how matters stood, and to expressing my hope that the hostilities now going on against the Northern Albanians would not lead to further complications.

I regret to hear that the notorious Hafiz Pasha is in command of the Turkish expeditionary force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 107.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 20.) *Scutari, June* 20, 1883.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Scutari having ascertained that the insurgents [had] more than ever resolved to resist to the last, and that much bloodshed was occurring yesterday, offered his services to the Vali to bring about a cessation of hostilities. His Excellency declined to accept him on the ground already alleged—that the insurgents had been overcome and had submitted. An impression has sprung up among the mountaineers that if the Powers do not intervene they can obtain support of Mark Milan, the powerful Montenegrin Chief of the Kuchi. I have, however, reason to believe that they would submit to a decision of the Powers both [as regards] the territorial cession to Montenegro and their administrative status in the Province of Scutari.

No. 108.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 21.) *Scutari, June* 22, 1883, 2·40 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS telegraphs me this morning from Paris that he would like to visit England if he could be accompanied by me. I presume this means that His Highness would like to be invited by your Lordship.

I have replied that I have communicated His Highness' wish to you, and that I await your Lordship's instructions.

His Highness' address is Hôtel Continental.

No. 109.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 22.) *Scutari, June* 22, 1883, 5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Consul-General, having been informed, either from Vienna or Cettinjé, that the insurgents were on the point of coming to an understanding with Montenegro rather than submit to the Turks, has urged both Vali and Bishop to prevent its accomplishment. The Prefect of the Monks has this morning been sent to the insurgents with a letter from the Bishop advising them to keep clear of the Montenegrins. He can perhaps, if they are moderate in their demands, obtain, with the assistance of the Austrian Consul-General, their favourable consideration by the Turkish Government. It is not thought likely that the letter will be [?].

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 110.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, June 23, 1883, 5·18 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 21 of 22nd.

You should intimate to Prince Nicholas that you cannot leave your post at the present juncture of affairs; and that, although he would receive a friendly reception in England, the moment is not favourable, as the Queen's health prevents her receiving any one at present.

No. 111.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 23, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 23.) *Scutari, June* 23, 1883.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 21 of yesterday, Prince telegraphs to me that, being obliged to return shortly to Montenegro, he cannot carry out his proposed visit to London.

No. 112.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 26, 8 A.M.)

(No. 24.) *Scutari, June* 25, 1883, 9·5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 22 of the 22nd, the Bishop's letter having been supplemented on the 23rd by one from the Austrian Consul, informing the insurgents that they were to have no hopes of Austrian support as long as they continued in revolt against the Sultan, the mountaineers decided to return to their houses. The Chiefs have not made their submission, as they doubt validity of the amnesty. They have not yet determined whether they will pass into Montenegro.

(Sent to Mr. Wyndham.)

No. 113.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 93.) *Scutari, June* 15, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a translation of a document, written in Italian, which was received by me, through an unknown hand, yesterday evening. It is entitled an "Appeal to Messieurs the Representatives of the European Powers residing in Scutari of Albania," and purports to bear the signatures of the majority of the Chiefs of the tribes of the Great Mountains, or "Mountains above Scutari." It also claims to speak on behalf of all the other mountain Chiefs and clans comprised in the province of Scutari. I believe, however, that most of the signatures are those of Chiefs of the Hotti, Gruda, and Castrati tribes.

I have already had the honour of informing your Lordship by telegraph that I shall be careful to abstain from in any way taking local action with regard to this document in the absence of instructions from your Lordship.

The three satisfactory points of the "Appeal" are—the declaration of fidelity to the Sultan, the determination to act on the defensive against the Turkish troops, and the complete absence of religious motives for the stand taken by the mountaineers.

With regard to this last fact, I am assured that several of the signers of the Appeal are Mahommedans.

All the complaints set forth in paragraph 2 can be, more or less, supported by incidents of recent occurrence; still, it is but fair towards the Turkish authorities to observe that most of them have arisen out of the attitude of defiance assumed by the Mountaineers. The allusion, however, to the persecutions suffered by the timid Christian inhabitants of the town of Scutari touches, as your Lordship is aware, a weak point of the Turkish administration here, and which was persistingly disregarded at Constantinople, notwithstanding the direct appeals made by the Roman Catholic Scutarines and the frequent friendly representations of Her Majesty's Embassy.

I understand that prominence has been purposely given to the objection to a territorial cession to Montenegro, in order to secure the adhesion and sympathy of the Mussulman fractions of the tribes and inhabitants of Scutari, and also under an impression that it will find favour with the Sultan.

The appeal to the Powers may, nevertheless, be taken to mean submission, if needful, to their decision on the frontier question, but, at the same time, the expression of an earnest hope that the self-government which the clansmen have hitherto enjoyed may be put beyond the danger of abolition at the will of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Appeal to the Representatives of the European Powers residing in Scutari of Albania.

(Translation.) *Castrati, June* 9, 1883.

To Mr. Kirby Green,

WE, the Chiefs of the mountains above Scutari, in unison with those of all the other standards attached to the Vilayet of Scutari, spontaneously make known to the Representatives of the Powers in Scutari of Albania, as follows:—

1. That we, not through a spirit of revolt, or out or hatred for our august Sovereign, whom we have ever submissively and faithfully served, but only through having been provoked by every kind of injury, compulsion, and oppression, stand up against the Government of this vilayet.

2. It was only when we became certain that this same Government was perpetrating acts of cruelty and inhumanity against us destined to effect our destruction; that it trod under foot our traditional laws; ordered the massacre of our peaceable mountaineer bretheren; carried out the arbitrary confiscation of our property; insulted the honour of our women; and, lastly, men came to assail us with arms; that we felt ourselves justified in opposing it, and in driving back, we too, with arms, the violence which was being shown us.

3. Let this Government lay aside the idea of assailing us anew; we also will abstain from hostilities; we are resolved, however, to keep on the defensive, to protect ourselves from new aggressions, and to prevent, as far as we are able, the dismemberment of our tribes, and the unjust sale of our lands to the stranger.

4. The Government of this vilayet, morally and materially aided by him who is our enemy, is proceeding by every means in its power to realize the project which it has undertaken of depriving us of our ancestral property, and of afterwards abolishing our traditional laws, so as to make us the slaves of its despotism.

5. We, weak, few, and poor in everything, may perhaps have to succumb; but from this moment we protest that we will not yield spontaneously to the unjust violence employed against us; and we appeal to the civilized Powers of Europe for help and moral aid in the desperate straits in which we are plunged.

6. We are certain that pitying and civilized Europe will be just towards us, as she has been before with other nations; and will not permit that a people, without other reason but political ends, shall be deprived of its substance, its laws, its customs, and be obliged to groan under the Government which is oppressing it, persecuting it, and meditating its extermination.

We do not place our seals here because they are engraved in Turkish, but we place the traditional sign of the finger.

Here follow the signs of the Chiefs: Nicol Mirasci, Ded Gioni, Mal Gioka, Uik Mizzoli, Luz Muccia, Stak Brezzi, Ismael Martini, Col Curti, Sokol Bazi, Chiz Ghilla, Saban Smaku, Dod Prenci, Checcio Prela, Tom Nicola, Zel Vuxsani, Brahim Vuxani, Lek Vata, Prendax Zefi, Marax Vata, Marax Mirasci, Socol Mirasci.

No. 114.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 94.) *Scutari, June* 15, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed by a person who has the means of knowing what is occurring in Mirdicia, that the Mirdites have lately held several public meetings with regard to the struggle which has arisen between the Turkish troops and the Great Mountain tribes, and that they have determined to make a demonstration, within the next few days, in the direction of Alessio and San Giovanni di Medua, in order to mark their resolve to assist, if necessary, the Great Mountains in maintaining their ancient privileges and immunities.

My informant also states that the powerful tribes of Clementi and Skrelli, after they have accomplished the summer migration of their flocks to the mountains from the pastures on the sea-coast, will join the tribes already in arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 115.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 27.)

E (No. 95.)

Scutari, June 16, 1883.

My Lord,

AS I had heard doubts expressed by certain persons as to the genuineness and value of the document which I have had the honour of bringing to your Lordship's knowledge in my despatch No. 93 of yesterday's date, I have made inquiries on the subject in the proper quarter, and have ascertained that every Chief, whose name appears on the document, with his own finger made the mark giving it his approval; and that, further, before the Appeal was signed it was submitted to all the tribes of the province, and authority obtained from them to speak as well in their names.

I have also been assured that the mountaineers are in no way discouraged, and that they have firmly resolved to carry on their resistance to an extreme limit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 116.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 28.)

(No. 96.)

Scutari, June 17, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed by the Chief Medical Officer of the Military Hospital here that two of the wounded soldiers sent from the front have been mutilated by the deprivation of their upper lips and noses.

I shall not fail to take every opportunity of expressing to those who I know can communicate with the insurgent mountaineers, the horror with which such barbarous acts are sure to be viewed by the civilized world, and the injury which they are likely to bring down upon whatever of justice there may be in the cause of the clansmen.

It is asserted, in extenuation of the above barbarities, that the mountaineers were exasperated by the decapitation and other brutal treatment of the body of the brother of the Bairacktar, or standard bearer, of the Castrati tribe, which fell into the hands of the Turkish soldiers during the battle of the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 117.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 28.)

(No 97.)

Scutari, June 17, 1883.

My Lord,

IT appears that Hafiz Pasha did not, as I had the honour of reporting in my despatch No. 92 of the 12th instant, proceed from Graboni direct to Tousi, but took up a position at Vranja, whence he, the day before yesterday and yesterday, attacked the mountaineers on the Hotti hills, both near Skella Helm and Traboïne.

The Turkish Commander claims to have so completely overcome the resistance of the insurgents, many of whose houses he destroyed by artillery fire, that it was unnecessary for him to keep his footing on the hills. He, therefore, it is said, withdrew his troops to the fort of Shipshanik at Tousi.

The clansmen, on the other hand, assert that they successfully repelled the Turks, who are now obliged to seek the protection of their redoubts.

From twenty to twenty-five wounded soldiers have been forwarded by Hafiz Pasha to the Scutari hospital since yesterday morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 118.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 28.)

E (No. 98.)

Scutari, June 18, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Mustafa Assym Pasha called on me this afternoon and informed me that he had yesterday telegraphed to the Porte that the insurgent Roman Catholic tribes, after the last two days' successful operations of Hafiz Pasha in the Hotti mountains, had perceived the futility of their resistance, and had made their submission to the General.

As I had reason to believe that, notwithstanding Mustafa Assym Pasha's statement, the mountaineers were still engaged in hostilities with the Turkish troops, I asked his Excellency to carefully explain to me the asserted collapse of the insurrection.

Mustafa Assym Pasha replied that, though he admitted conflicts might still occur through the temerity of some of the mountaineers, yet, as he had telegraphed to the Porte that the resistance was at an end, the insurrection, *ipso facto*, no longer could exist, especially so as he had ordered Hafiz Pasha to cease fighting.

The Governor-General gave me some other details concerning the return of the tribes to their allegiance, but, as they were coupled with the admission that the principal Chiefs of Hotti, Gruda, and Castrati, with a part of their tribes, had not yet sought the Turkish Commander's clemency, I was obliged to conclude that even he, Mustafa Assym Pasha, knew that the insurrection could not be said to have been entirely suppressed.

It is probable that directions have been sent from Constantinople, under fear that the serious opposition offered by the mountaineers may lead to foreign intervention, for the authorities here to immediately cease their military operations, and to patch up, if possible, their differences with the tribes.

Hence the Governor-General's visit to me to induce me to adopt his last view of the state of affairs in North Albania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 119.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 28.)

E (No. 99.)

Scutari, June 19, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the asserted cessation of the insurrection of the North Albanian frontier tribes, reported to your Lordship yesterday in my despatch No. 98, I have the honour to confirm to your Lordship my belief that Mustafa Assym Pasha's hopeful view of the situation would not be borne out by existing facts.

It has now been ascertained, through a source which cannot be questioned, that the insurgent tribes are more united than ever; that their strength is daily being increased by arrivals from other tribes; that they are greatly encouraged by the success of their resistance; and that, as yet, no sign of a wish to surrender has appeared among them.

A few mountain Chiefs and clansmen of the Mahommedan faith, who have felt unable to take an active part in the insurrection against Ottoman rule, have been expelled from their tribes and their houses burnt. It is these Chiefs who have arrived at the Turkish head-quarters, and who are represented to have made their submission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 120.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 28.)

E (No. 100.)

Scutari, June 19, 1883.

My Lord,

IT is with regret that I have to report anew to your Lordship that the North Albanian tribesmen are exhibiting unusual barbarity and savagery in their struggle

against the Turkish troops, and that they have already perpetrated several acts of cruelty which are likely to seriously injure their cause in the estimation of those who may wish them well.

The day before yesterday, whilst a party of eight Turkish soldiers was passing by a church in the Castrati district, over which its priest had displayed a Red Cross flag to secure it respect, four mountaineers, who were in the church, fired on the soldiers and killed seven of them. These they decapitated, and placed the severed heads on stakes before the church.

It is right to add that the Roman Catholic priests have vehemently denounced this barbarous act, and that their reprobation is likely to have a salutary effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 121.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 28.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 27, 1883, 3·10 P.M.

LAST night my colleagues and I each received a letter from the insurgent Chiefs, dated 24th. It renews the appeal to the Powers, and promises submission to whatever equitable decision they may pronounce. A concluding paragraph, however, states that the submission to the Turks has been agreed to on the written advice of the Bishop and the Austrian Consul, provided that the Vali's amnesty is properly guaranteed.

My Austrian colleague, through whose influence this submission has been obtained, tells me that if the Chiefs could learn that the other Powers share the trust of Austria that no bad faith is contemplated by Turkish Government towards them, matters would settle down without the risk of further complications.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 122.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 29, 1883, 4 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 112 of 6th April.

I to-day brought forward question of Bulgarian tribute and debts of small States. The Russian Representative considered the matter was not yet ripe for discussion; the other Representatives expressed their readiness to take it into consideration.

I propose, with a view of advancing the question, to request the Porte unofficially to furnish me with statistics as to the average revenues of the ceded territories during five years previous to their cession.

This proposition might have approval of most of my colleagues.

Details by messenger.

×

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON